

# WEST AFRICA

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## COMMONWEALTH BECALMED?

In this week's Ottawa conference of Commonwealth heads of government going to look more like a seminar than a political circus? Certainly there seems to be among most of those attending a determination to use the occasion for frank discussion about international affairs rather than polemics, and the arrangements this time will encourage small meetings and informality rather than speeches delivered for the benefit of the world outside, not of the conference itself. Any leader could easily change this cosy picture. But this is an opportunity for genuine and informed discussion, if only because it is a unique international

conference representing all races and continents (and a quarter of the world's people) but needs no interpreters.

The idea that the Commonwealth represents states devoted to parliamentary democracy has long been abandoned. Two of the four West African members, for example, have military governments but Ghana and Nigeria are among the strongest supporters of the Commonwealth association. From East Africa there comes General Amin. And there are the *de facto* and *de jure* one-party states. Of the 33 members eleven recognise the Queen as their Head of State. Four are monarchies with their

own monarchs - Lesotho, Malaysia, Swaziland and Tonga. In twelve of the republics the President is Head of Government. In the other six the President is "constitutional", with a Prime Minister exercising power under the constitution. And among the Presidents is a "Prince-Archbishop".

So, apart from absolute monarchy, Commonwealth states probably represent all types of government which the modern world knows. What, then, do these leaders have in common which allows them to have useful discussions? The English language is not the only thing. There is also a common political



Africa unites to meet Europe

- The politics of Air Afrique
- Ghana: an end to elitism?
- Is there a cocoa famine?
- Drought under the microscope
- Sierra Leone: all detainees freed
- Ghana's timber boom

vocabulary, which means that those who deviate from the norm, without apologising for doing so, know just how far the deviation goes. There are the multiplicity of professional, educational and commercial links (the Sterling area is no longer one of them), some of which are so well supported by the work of the Commonwealth Foundation. There are institutions concerned with economic co-operation and assistance, technical and financial aid, education and other functional co-operation. And there is the Commonwealth Secretariat itself, at which the Nigerian, Mr. Emeke Anyaoku is now Director of the International Affairs Division. But the Ottawa meeting is not and should not be chiefly concerned with these institutions or the functions they represent. They are continuous. The meeting's concern is, lofty though this sounds, Commonwealth countries and the world.

This time the Rhodesian issue which has been so prominent in recent meetings has been to a large degree neutralised by the Peace Report and the British Government's acceptance of it. Mr. Heath should escape the rough treatment he had at Singapore in 1971, which unhappily influenced his African attitudes - now, it is believed, restored to equilibrium by Gen. Gowon. Britain, it seems, never did sell arms to South Africa after all. Dr. Arikpo may therefore have forgiven Mr. Heath for so crudely kicking away the lifeline Nigeria had offered him on this issue at Singapore. Ritual condemnation

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How many potential members, however, are there in the wings? In Africa there are the Seychelles - and one day Rhodesia. There are still Caribbean countries, and scattered islands. But the Commonwealth has almost reached its final form. However much life it has ahead, it has survived the remarkable transformation from a tiny group of white countries to one of the biggest and most variegated groups the world has known.

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In the baroque surroundings of Egmont Palace here an unprecedented occasion in the history of both Europe and Africa took place.

Delegations from 34 countries of the five countries of the Caribbean (Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad and newly independent Bahamas) and countries of the South Pacific (Western Samoa and Fiji) met in conference with the nine countries enlarged European Community in preliminary discussion of their relations, which are to be hammered over the next 18 months. The 18 countries consisted of the 12 associated with the EEC under the Yaounde Convention, and the Commonwealth African countries to establish a relationship with the under protocol 22 of the 1971 Treaty of Brussels, including the three East African countries, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania which already have their own "African" agreement with the EEC. The invitation had been extended to Ethiopia, Liberia, the Sudan, and Equatorial Guinea following the series of meetings of the OAU in Abidjan. Addis Ababa and Addis in the last three months the 12 countries and Egypt were also present with observer status, although Libya was not. Indeed the only OAU member countries not present in some way were Libya, Guinea, and Equatorial Guinea, although the invitations had been open to them all.

There was some speculation about the opening about the exact status of the OAU at the meeting. The Yaounde conference earlier this month resolved that there should be a spokesman for the African group in normal practice at international meetings and that an OAU Secretariat should be established in Brussels to work with existing secretariats established in other countries already associated with the under the Yaounde Convention. The Arusha group, Mr. Westcott, Nigeria's Federal Trade Commission

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The delegations varied considerably in size and weight. Some countries like Tonga were only represented by one Ambassador. Others like Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal and the Ivory Coast had large delegations led by ministers or commissioners. Nigeria was led by Mr. Briggs, supported by his Permanent Secretary, Mr. Victor Adegroye, Mr. Olu Sanu, Ambassador to Brussels, and five others. Ghana's delegation, led by Major Roger Felli, with his Principal Secretary, Mr. K.B. Asante, had three Ambassadors (Mr. Henry Sekyi from London, Mr. Seddoh from Paris, and Mr. Djamson from The Hague) and 4 other officers. The Senegalese were led, as in Lagos, by the Finance Minister, M. Babacar Ba and the Ivorian group of 11 - the largest delegation - by the Finance Minister, M. Konan Bedie, who had not been in Lagos.

Even smaller countries like Sierra Leone had Foreign and Trade Ministers - Mr. Desmond Luke and Mr. F.M. Minnah, as well as two Ambassadors. (Mr. J.A.C. Davies from London and Mr. Jabati from Rome) while The Gambia had Alhaji Garba-Jahumpa and Mr. Sherif Dibba, The Gambia's resident representative in Brussels. Other countries, too, who sent Foreign Ministers were Mali, and the Central African Republic. There were Finance Ministers from Congo, Lesotho, Malawi and Chad. Botswana sent the Vice-President, Dr. Q. K. J. Masire, while Mauritius, the only Commonwealth "associate", had the most high powered delegation of all with the Prime Minister Sir Seewoosagar Ramgoolam and his Foreign and Commerce Ministers. The Fiji delegation included both the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition.

## The Position of the Nine

The meeting had been preceded by a session of the EEC Council of Ministers on July 24, at which a text was worked out acceptable to the nine. This was duly read out by the current President of the Council, Mr. Ivar Norgaard, Danish Minister for Economic Affairs, at the opening session on July 25. This text represented the position of the nine, and it seemed vague to the point of obscurity on some issues, and unresponsive to Africa on others, at least there were plenty of indications on the part of the EEC of a sincere desire to hear what the African and the rest had to say. The first part of the statement was a resumé of relations between Africa and Europe since the Rome Treaty of 1957, passing through the two Yaoundé



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The reiteration of the three options by the council must have surprised some African delegates, who may have thought they no longer applied, but the protocol still stands. Mr. Norgaard stressed the freedom of choice between the options and that nobody need commit themselves at the outset or feel inhibited from changing their options. He also said: "preservation of what has been achieved in no way implies a policy of inaction and a bar to new departures". Protocol 22 itself laid down that the provisions of association must similarly take account of special economic conditions common to the independent Commonwealth developing countries and the associates. Similar indications of flexibility can be seen in the statement: "before adopting a position on all the questions which may figure in these negotiations, the community awaits with particular interest any indications you may wish to give it on your own policies".

The document is opaque on "trade agreements", specifying only free entry to the Community of most products of affected states, and not mentioning reciprocity as such, although the contractual basis of the arrangements in the light of GATT is referred to. "The community has not, however, yet reached a final view of the trade structures of the new convention and we would be glad to hear any views you may wish to express on this point", said the Danish Minister.

## Price stabilisation

The same vagueness is seen on the issue of international commodity price stabilisation, on which there is also disagreement among the nine EEC members. The provisions on aid (no less of financial aid for associates, and equal treatment for associates) are already well understood. The Minister said, not surprisingly, that he was unable to give details of the amount of financial aid which the EEC would provide in future. The statement on institutions to carry out any agreements reached between the "associates" and the EEC seemed not to have registered some African views recently expressed; but here again the Minister said the attitude of the "partners" of the community would be taken into account.

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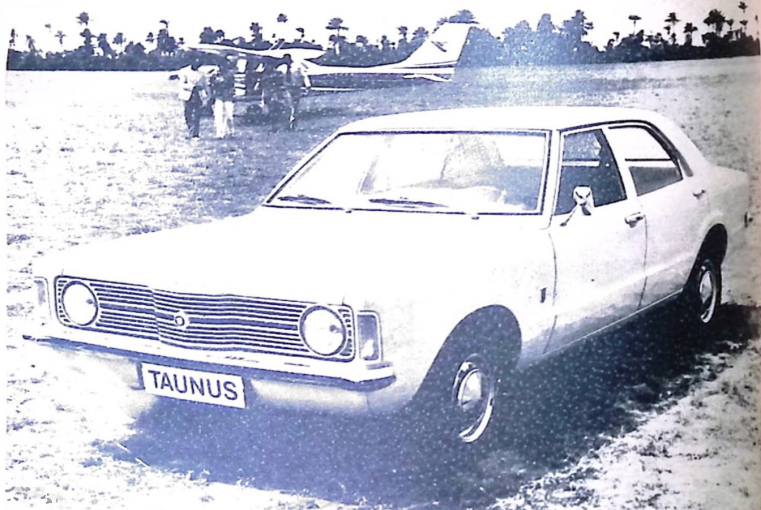
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# Drought under the microscope

from our correspondent

The spate of sensational news reports on the drought in the Sahel zone of West Africa gave way this month to an examination of the problem in all its aspects at a two-day symposium, "Drought in Africa". The symposium was organised by the Centre for African Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, and took place at the School. The symposium was the brainchild of energetic Dr David Dalby of the Centre for African Studies, and it attracted participants from academic and scientific institutions, representatives of international national and private and domestic, African diplomatic missions in London and the press. Objectives of the symposium included arriving "at a fuller understanding of the causes, nature and extent of recent droughts in Africa and, in the light of present and anticipated future need, to review actual and proposed attempts to alleviate the short-term and long-term effects of these droughts". It also considered proposals for a major international conference on "Drought in Africa and Asia" to be held in 1974.

Although the Sahelian drought has received particular attention lately the drought problem was taken as applying to all Africa. Countries north of the equator affected by drought, though with varying severity, include Mauritania, Senegal, the Gambia, Mali, Upper Volta, Niger, Chad, Sudan, Ethiopia, together with the northern regions of Guinea, Ghana, Togo, Dahomey, Sierra and Cameroon. Countries affected south of the equator include Namibia (South West Africa), Botswana, Lesotho, together with parts of Zambia and Rhodesia.

Opening the symposium, the Vice-Chancellor of the University and Director of the School, Prof Philips, noted that the main objective was to take "sentiments and sensation" out of the crisis and present the stark facts with a view to finding a long-term solution. Prof Philips' use of the word "sensation" no doubt referred to news coverage for obvious reasons, notably that of space, reports not possibly do justice to the drought beyond focussing world attention on the human aspect.

In spite of efforts by Dr. Dalby to get Africans to participate very few turned up. There was the Senegalese Ambassador in London, M. Aloune Badara Mbengue, who attended the opening and morning session of the first day. Ghana was represented by the Director of Agriculture, Mr M.S.O. Nicholas, who was much in evidence. There were also a couple of African research students of the university. The sparse African representation perhaps justified a remark by one of the European participants, that the symposium was an attempt to

"examine Africa through a microscope in London" with little African participation.

The first day was devoted to examination of causes of drought, from the point of view of climate, water resources and land use, while the human factor, logistics of aid, transport, marketing and storage were tackled on the second day. In general, the drought in Sahel, which forms part of a larger global phenomenon, was blamed mainly on cyclical changes in climate of vast area of the world affecting pressure, distribution of winds and consequently rainfall. There are, too, man-made causes. These include improper use of land and water.

In his contribution, Prof. H.H. Lamb of the Climatic Research Unit, University of East Anglia, noted that distribution of atmospheric pressure over the northern hemisphere averaged over 74, each year from 1951 to 1969, differing from the average conditions of the first half of the century in showing a belt of higher pressure all round the fringe of polar regions. This had had the effect of displacing all other climatic zones a few degrees of latitude nearer the equator. The sub-tropical high pressure systems were displaced somewhat towards the equator and then presence brought a tendency to reduced rainfall in regions along the southern fringe of the desert zone. "A study of the global distribution of rainfall anomalies of the period 1961-1964 showed this pattern, with increased rainfall in the Mediterranean and elsewhere in the lower middle latitudes as well as just near the equator, while rainfall was reduced over much of the desert zone, particularly its southern fringe". Heavy rainfall around the equator had raised the level of lakes in East Africa after 1960.

## Aridity and drought

Dr. Derek Winstanley distinguished between aridity and drought. He defined drought "as a water shortage which upsets the ecological balance", and "occurs only in areas which normally receive appreciable amounts of water, either directly as precipitation, or indirectly from other sources". South of latitude 14 degrees north in West Africa, with annual rainfall of between 400 and 3,000mm, which is also fairly reliable from year to year, drought is not a great problem. But there is a marginal area between the Sahara Desert and the humid coastal areas, latitude 14 to 19 degrees north, with rainfall between 100 and 400mm, which comes mainly between May or June and September or October. This is the Sahel where life "is balanced on a knife's edge by the success or failure of the summer rains". Present drought extends right across Africa — from

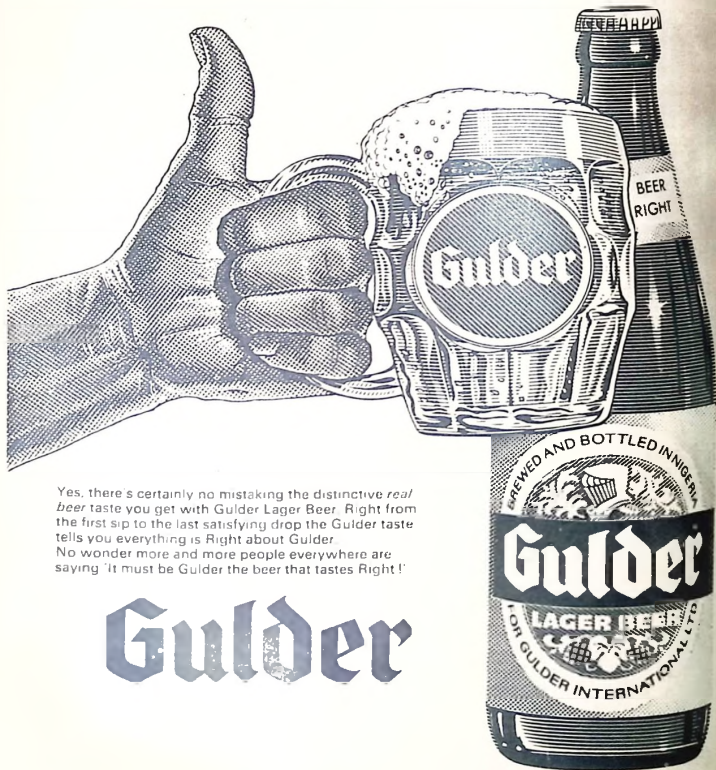
Mauritania in the west to Ethiopia in the east. The present drought "in the Sahel, and also in north-west India, is due to the cumulative effects of a decade of below average monsoon rainfall, not only have the rains been below average, but they have also been decreasing year after year". Dr Winstanley said. Clarifying reports about the southward shift of the Sahara, Dr Winstanley pointed out that it is the desert climate, particularly the rain belt, which has shifted south. "The southward shift of the Sahara Desert is an effect of these climatic changes and not a cause".

From the Institute of Agricultural Research, Samaru, North Central Nigeria, came a communication on the drought which had affected four states — North Eastern, Kano, North Central and North Western — which were declared a disaster area by the Federal Government in January. The Federal Government voted 10m naira for relief in the area while state governments purchased and distributed grain in bulk to keep down prices. There has been no appeal by the Federal government for external aid for the drought states, which means that the government has been able to contain the disaster. But there is a question as to what extent the government's relief measures have succeeded. Now there are reports of threat of famine in Kano State.

The Samaru report noted that over the last few years rainfall in the affected states had been "erratic and below average". Rainfall for Kano, situated at latitude 12 degrees north averaged 1,042mm between 1969 and 1972; average annual rainfall at Nguru, at latitude 12 degrees, 53 seconds north, in the same period was 558.4mm, while Katsina and Sokoto, both at latitude 13 degrees north, had annual average of 699.6mm. The low rainfall has led to "a general lowering of the ground water level". Analyses of long-term climatic data had not yet shown "conclusively that the occurrences of droughts in Africa are a result of either a cyclic or permanent change in the climate on the continental scale". Power of forecasting occurrence of droughts in time, place and intensity, was practically nil. This situation might change when the World Weather Watch became a reality. More needed to be known about the reported shift southwards of the wind and pressure systems in the northern hemisphere.

The "disaster area" of northern Nigeria covers 150,000 sq km, with about 3.9m people living in it, out of an estimated 30m people in the northern states as a whole. Agricultural land covers one fifth of total land while 80 per cent of the population are engaged directly in agriculture. With two per cent annual increase in population, the population of the area will double in 30 years. In an

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optimistic forecast, the communication notes that the "population pressure on food in northern Nigeria will continue to be met for a good number of years to come largely through crops grown locally and under the traditional system".

Little study had been done on characteristics of water resources below the earth's surface in the drought areas. And except for irrigated agriculture, little direct research had been done to define a system of rain-fed agriculture which would be most suitable for the Sudan and Sahel regions. In northern Nigeria, there are mid- and late-season droughts in addition to early drought or late rains. This year, rains were six weeks late and crop yields will be affected. A seed fund might be set up from which alternative varieties could be made available to farmers.

## Worst affected

From the six most seriously hit of the West African countries - Upper Volta, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Mali, Niger and Chad - each situation reports. Senegal, with a population of 3.8m, has been affected by drought for five to seven years. Worst affected areas are those lying north of the Senegal-Mali railway line to Bamako. Drought in Senegal is referred to as a crisis rather than a catastrophe. Some cases of cholera have occurred in Diourbel area and a massive vaccination campaign is underway. Senegal is still dependent on groundnuts in spite of efforts to diversify the economy. The 1973 crop, estimated at 350,000 tons, is one third of the year's target. The 1971 crop was 600,000 tons. Millet and sorghum production is expected to be 350,000 tons, some 55 per cent of normal. The most serious effect of drought has been destruction of cattle grazing areas in northern and central regions with rainfall of only 60-120mm during the 1972 rainy season. Normal figure is 300mm. Livestock figures are 2.7m cattle and 2.8m sheep and goats. Estimates of cattle losses vary from 20 to 40 per cent. Food deficit is 170,000 tons of grains. Aid requested is 71,000 tons while 65,000 had been promised. Livestock requirements are \$900,000 for 8,000 tons of feed and 10 vehicles for rescue operations and vaccinations together with \$600,000 for creation of well-drilling brigades.

Upper Volta has been declared a class D drought area by the FAO since 1967. With a population of 5.4m., of which 3 per cent are nomadic, Upper Volta is the most densely populated and the poorest of Sahel countries. President Lamizana has said that "the catastrophe which has struck us is much greater than it would be in the case of a diversified economy". Livestock population is 7.6m with 2.9m cattle and 2.7m sheep and goats, 35 per cent of animals are in danger. At least 3m cattle from Niger had added to the drain on the country's May alone. Doubts had been cast on the government's ability to handle relief.

Of the five million people in Mali some two million are suffering from drought. The River Niger is at its lowest level in living memory and 40 per cent of crops have failed, while 40 per cent of cattle had been lost with the remainder stricken with disease. Things had been made worse by a large influx of nomads mainly from Mauritania. Urgent food needs are of the order of 350,000 tons of grains. Total shipments of grain received were 150,000 tons, and 30,000 tons of supplies were required in the next two months. There is much congestion in Dakar of goods ready to be moved to Mali, which makes the country a top priority in airlift operations. People will be isolated in parts of the country when rains come. Some 70 per cent of Niger, with a population of 4.3m, is desert and most of the north-east of the country is uninhabitable. Livestock population is 13.8m, of which there are 4.4m cattle. Cattle losses have been put at 20 per cent. Urgent requirements are 100,000 tons of grain, 30,000 tons of livestock feed, 16 vehicles and \$420,000 for waterworks. The transport problem is particularly acute because Niger is landlocked.

Rainfall in Chad in 1972 has been the lowest since 1943 and Lake Chad is at its lowest level for many years and will probably divide into two parts, as it did in 1900, if rains fail this year. The population is 3.8m, while livestock population is 9.1m. There are 4.5m cattle. Cattle losses are about 20 per cent. Estimates of urgent food requirements are 650 tons of sorghum, 500 tons of rice, 400 tons of groundnuts, 1,390 tons of millet and 300 tons of wheat. Seed is not available locally and the FAO proposed an airlift from abroad.

## Emergency fund

About 75 per cent of Mauritania's population of a little over one million are affected by drought. Estimates of requirements are difficult because of lack of data. 75 per cent of the population are nomadic. Much aid will arrive late because of the inability of Nouakchott to handle incoming aid now channelled through Dakar. Of an area of 1.1m sq km, 70 per cent falls in the Sahara and 30 per cent in the Sahel. Livestock population is 8.8m of which there are 2.7m cattle. Cattle losses are put at 35 per cent. Estimated shortage of foodstuffs is 90,000 tons of grain of which 54,000 tons had been promised. 24,000 tons of food shipments have arrived. The government is responsible for co-ordinating relief and had brought a fleet of lorries from West Germany for distribution. An emergency fund was launched in January to which each employee would give a day's pay each month and each company one per cent of monthly turnover. The fund had raised 1,400m fr CFA by end of April.

(To be concluded)



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## Matchet's Diary

Is Nigeria seeing another brain drain, this time an internal one? News that Professor F. U. Essien-Udom has left his post as Professor of Political Science at Ibadan prompts the question. He is succeeding Mr. Michael Amis as Secretary to the Government, or chief civil servant, in the South-East State. Professors Ayo Ogunseye and Ganiyu Jawando left their university posts to become executive director of Henry Stephens Nigeria and general manager of the Union Trading Company (UTC) respectively. The former vice-chancellor of the University of Ibadan, Prof. Adeoye Lambo, is now working for the World Health Organisation (WHO), while Dr Omotoso Ogunnusi left Lagos University to work for the *Daily Times* of Nigeria. These are not isolated examples. In addition, there are many academics serving federal and state governments as commissioners. The drift from academic life to industry and government show not so much lack of a sense of vocation by academics as their need to keep life and limb together irrespective of the calling. The academic elite in Nigeria are relatively less well paid than their colleagues in industry or government or international organisations. The recent strike by university teachers was in protest at salaries and conditions of service. So the drift to industry and government by academics may grow if conditions in universities do not improve. Industry and government certainly deserve good people as much as universities do.

Prof. Essien-Udom seems to have rationalised his appointment by saying that the "best service is a creative

job and we should be able to utilise all available resources to maximum capacity". Born in the present South-Eastern state, he is son of a mission teacher, trader, councillor and customary court judge. The 48-year-old professor worked as an interpreter for the colonial government from 1949 to 1951, when he left for the US to study political science at Ohio University on scholarship, later graduating Ph.D in international relations from the University of Chicago. After a brief period as a research associate at Harvard Centre for International Affairs, he joined the University of Ibadan in 1963. He was dean of Social Sciences from 1966 to 1968 and visiting professor to the Centre for International Studies, Birmingham, between 1972 and March this year. Prof. Essien-Udom is author of *Black Nationalism*, a study of Marcus Garvey, and has been editor of the *Cass Africana Modern Library*. He said after his appointment: "We all wanted the state and I am here to make my own contributions towards its progress."

### Tony at 50

It's difficult to believe that Chief Anthony Enahoro, long one of Nigeria's youngest politicians, has at last reached the age of 50. "Nobody can call me young Tony any more", he told me in London, where the event was celebrated. This was his second visit to London within a week - both visits on the business of the Second World Black and Africa Festival of Arts and Culture, of which he is President of the International Committee. In the middle he had been back to Lagos, and had gone to Ghana to give a news conference. He was back in London for the first night, at Saddlers Wells, of the Nigerian National Troupe of dancers, singers, and musicians. Now he is taking a short rest, with lots of golf.



The eight Hausa instrumentalists who opened the performance of the Nigerian National Troupe at the Round House, London. From different states, they have not played together before.

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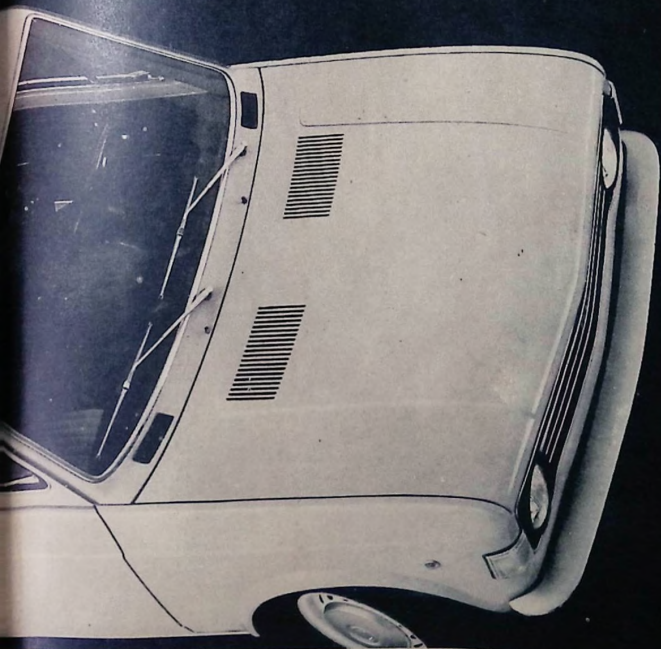
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# Books and Publications

## What is development

**Project Evaluation** collected papers, by Arnold C. Harberger (Macmillan, £9.50)  
**Measuring Development**, edited by Nancy Ravlin (Frank Cass, £2.50)

Every nation strives after development. But what does development mean? How is it measured? And how is it brought about?

Development may be brought about, though not assured, by investment in projects which maximise returns in relation to inputs. This raises the question: how are those projects identified and chosen? This is the theme of Dr Harberger's work. It examines the theory of "project evaluation" and its applications with emphasis on public sector investment designed to promote economic development. A general overview of the field is also presented, surveying and critically analysing the various techniques of project evaluation with emphasis on the differences between social and private costs and benefits. Also discussed is the question of how the social opportunity costs of public funds, material inputs and foreign exchange depend directly upon the response parameters of private sectors and the distortions (mostly taxes) which cause social and private valuations to diverge.

Particular attention is given to the controversial question of the relevant rate of discount for use in cost-benefit analysis. After considering the internal rate of return, the market rates of interest on bonds, the social rate of time preference, and the marginal productivity of capital in the private sector, the book concludes that though useful as a summary indicator of a project's profitability, the internal rate of return "should not be used as the basic criterion for project evaluation". Rather, the "optimal rate for use in discounting costs and benefits in a market economy is the marginal productivity of capital in the private sector of the economy, defined in such a way as to include all social benefits and costs in the calculation." It is also concluded that flow of costs and benefits should normally be done at rates which vary from year to year, "necessary in order to reach proper decisions on project timing and scale, and particularly important in reaching valid decisions in years in which investible funds are either particularly abundant or particularly scarce relative to existing opportunities".

After applying these principles to the measurement of the rates of returns on capital to India and Columbia and

developing theoretical concepts, evaluating the benefits of water transportation and irrigation projects, Harberger, who is Professor of Economics at Chicago, examines various methods connected with US "aid". He looks at the impact of US aid on the per head of most recipient countries, probably been small - both in absolute magnitude and relative to existing levels of per capita income. In discussing performance he suggests that aid will be largely concentrated on projects with programme and sector level, a substantially smaller role than in recent years.

Programme and sector loans entail a significant degree of interference with recipients' policy areas. Moreover, "the absence of any clear criterion for determining the distribution of aid funds among the recipient countries. It is simplistic to think we can estimate the amount of aid needed to generate a given level of per capita income or a given rate of growth, even if we could do this we would not be far along the path to find which countries get how much. The closest one can come to the guidelines for the distribution of programme and sector aid is to say that more aid per capita should go to poorer countries than to richer countries, and that more should go to those making strong as against negligible self-help efforts. It is a commentary that the distribution of per capita income programme and sector aid in the past has probably been negatively correlated both with levels of recipient countries' per capita income and with any reasonable measure of recipients' self-help efforts."

The point is also well made that it is not indispensable to economic development. "Many countries, stressed, "have survived since 1945 without foreign aid, and the process of organisation of an aid programme is only be hampered and confused by blind belief that aid is "vital, indispensable and so forth". There is indeed productive in most cases, is not indispensable.

A few comments can be made on this thesis. First, project evaluation techniques are mere positive tools, all guides to policy they should be regarded as sacrosanct and never valid for all times and places.

Secondly, the amount of aid

from a project depends on the extent to which the factors of production are supplied from local resources. This is so, irrespective of whether the project is publicly or privately owned, and it is particularly important in evaluating projects in developing countries where much of the capital and technology may be supplied from outside the country.

Thirdly, assuming that investment in projects which maximise returns to outputs contribute to development, we fall back to the two questions raised above: what is development and how do we measure it? These questions are taken up by the very useful *Measuring Development*.

This work, to which experts in various aspects of development in university and international research institutes throughout the world contribute, sees development as multi-dimensional, involving changes in structure and capacity as well as output. More precisely, as Dudley Seers puts it, "development means creating the conditions for the realisation of human personality." But this is only one view, which sees development as a planned movement towards agreed goals. Another school sees development as a historical process. Whichever view one takes, it is still necessary to attempt to measure or quantify the progress being made either for analysis and diagnosis or for planning and policy decisions.

It is here that problems arise. First, development has hitherto mostly been confused with economic growth as measured by per-capita incomes or gross national product, but both can grow without real development taking place. National income as a development indicator may have the advantage of being quantifiable, but, as this book asserts, "what are all the voluminous tables of national income accounts really worth? So far as the third World is concerned, much of what they ought to cover is virtually outside the scope of official statistics. The published national income series for a large number of countries have very little relevance to economic reality." Even though the Gross National Product may be rising, if wealth is concentrated in a few hands or in foreign enclaves and the mass of the population are becoming poorer, development surely may not be present.

Another difficulty is that development involves more than the economic side of peoples' lives and it is not possible to devise indicators for social and political development which can precisely assess social welfare, longevity, health, education, political awareness and other elements, which are difficult to quantify but which cannot be divorced from consideration of development without misconstruing the real and wider meaning of the term.

The other difficulty is that development is inevitably a normative concept, almost a synonym for improvement and therefore it requires value judgement. But there is no

internationally agreed and commonly accepted sets of values. Generally these values come from governments but "some governments are themselves the main obstacles to development".

The value of *Measuring Development* lies in tackling the above problems. One may agree with Dudley Seers that evaluation of development must "take into account three linked economic criteria whether there has been a reduction in (1) poverty, (2) unemployment, (3) inequality. A 'plan' which conveys no targets for reducing poverty, unemployment and inequality can hardly be considered a development plan".

Green Nwankwo

**African Art of Two Continents Selected From The Herskovits Collection, (Northwestern University Library, Evanston, Illinois, \$2 in advance).**

Almost for the first time the collection of African Art of Melville and Frances Herskovits can now be seen by the public. Professor Herskovits died in 1963 and his wife last year. Their daughter Jean has allowed the Northwestern Library to exhibit the items in this catalogue. Melville Herskovits was responsible for establishment of the Northwestern Program of African Studies, the first of its kind in the US, and the collection that he and his wife built up was carefully chosen and was often used as part of their teaching.

Professor Herskovits was one of the earliest, and most passionate, critics of the theory that Africa had little cultural heritage. As might be expected Dahomey, the country in which field work led to his standard *Dahomey: An Ancient West African Kingdom*, is well represented, but carvings, masks and artefacts from many parts of West Africa are also in the exhibition. Of particular interest is the collection of figures and handicrafts from Surinam, the former Dutch Guiana (thence *African Art of Two Continents*), where the Herskovitses did field work in the late 'twenties in the "independent African villages" established there by people of African origin.

Most of the excellent photographs in the catalogue are by Professor Frank Willett, now Professor in the Northwestern Department of Art History. The notes are the work of Joann Nagel Shaw.

A.M.

**Plantation Crops (Publications Section, Commonwealth Secretariat, £5.95).**

This latest edition of *Plantation Crops*, one of a series of commodity reviews prepared by the Trade and Commodities Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat, presents in convenient form statistical and other information relating to the area, production, international trade, consumption, stocks and prices of coffee, cocoa, tea, sugar, spices, tobacco and rubber. There is also a general review of the present situation in world markets for each of these commodities. The publication also reviews international

arrangements and agreements covering the commodities, as well as national developments in export duties and taxes, import tariffs, internal taxes, and marketing and price support measures. There are also 177 statistical tables, most of which cover the period 1965 to 1971, together with an earlier five years average; actual or estimated data for 1972 are given in certain cases. The International Cocoa Agreement is reproduced in full.

N.M.

**Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy (International Labour Office, 17.50 Swiss francs, Europe only).**

Because of the enormous growth of multinational enterprises in the last 10 years there is great controversy about these organisations. Are they a useful force for wider distribution of capital, technology and job opportunities? Or are they a monstrous threat even to the governments of countries where they operate? ILO organised a conference towards the end of last year of experts drawn from governments, who included Mr Gabriel C. Okogwu of the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Labour, employers (including Unilever, BP and Dunlop) and workers, to discuss the topic, using a long ILO paper as a basis. The conference, the report on which is included in this booklet together with the ILO working paper, recommended that ILO should undertake detailed studies on various aspects of the problem to assist governments in formulating social policy.

A.L.

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# The politics of Air Afrique: 2

Air Afrique, the airline jointly established by a number of francophone African states has usually been held out as an example of practical commercial co-operation between African countries. In this, her second article from Dakar, Tamar Golan, concludes her discussion of the threat to the airline's continued operation arising out of the political relations between its outgoing Senegalese head, Cheikh Fall, and President Senghor of Senegal.

As far as the "Affair Air Afrique" was concerned, Senegal and the Ivory Coast seemed to agree, following the visit to Dakar of M. Phillip Yace, President Houphouët-Boigny's Lieutenant, that a new chairman had to be appointed as soon as possible, but without allowing political impatience to dictate qualification requirements. August was tentatively set as the date, somewhat earlier than the date suggested by M. Fall for his retirement and yet allowing time to search for a candidate acceptable to both countries. It is interesting that up to this stage the other, minor, partners had not been consulted. Yet, at Senegal's request, an extraordinary meeting of the Board of Directors, to be followed by a "General Assembly", was called for June 25. As soon as the meeting opened it became clear that politics were not to be out.

## Fall walks out

The Board meeting opened with M. Amadou Sow, the Senegal delegate, presenting a letter in which Senegal announced the replacement of M. Fall by M. Ba. Thereupon M. Fall rose from his chairman's seat and declared that he was no longer either chairman of the company or a member of the board, and he left the room. In the debate which followed, some members criticised the manner in which the Senegal government had removed M. Fall. They felt that while Senegal was completely within its rights to replace its representatives, one should not look only at the formal side. The company needed someone to run it, M. Fall's removal without any agreement on his successor could harm the multi-million economic enterprise. As a gesture, a proposal was accepted naming M. Fall as founding and honorary President. Another proposal was then put forward, that M. Alcide Kacou, an Ivory Coast delegate, should become temporary chairman. This was because he is President Director-Central of the sister-company HOTAFRIC, and therefore acquainted with some of the airline's management procedures. He was to be helped by the Gabon delegate, Minister of State Malekou (Gabon) is the third most important member of Air Afrique in terms of traffic and the French Vice President of the airline, Mr. Loubry, who represents the French partner, UTA, which is a shareholders through SOGATRA. M. Kacou then proposed that M. Fall would be engaged as consultant for a transitional period.



Houphouët Boigny, mediator

arguing that his own state of health did not allow him to do full-time work (M. Kacou is very ill and is to retire soon from HOTAFRIC as well). Moreover, M. Malekou had to carry on his work in his Libreville Ministry, and M. Loubry lived in Athens, where he acts as adviser to the Greek shipping magnate, Aristotle Onassis.

M. Sow vehemently opposed the proposal. He said that Senegal would withdraw from Air Afrique if M. Kacou engaged M. Fall in any capacity. The meeting then dissolved in great confusion, to be followed shortly afterwards by the General Assembly (which is, in fact, composed almost of the same people).

At the opening of this extraordinary General Assembly, the Ivory Coast delegate announced that in view of Senegal's position and its threat to withdraw, the Ivory Coast itself would choose to leave the company. Since this statement was made at the General Assembly, not at a board meeting, it became immediately effective. Thus, from the legal point of view, it was the Ivory Coast, not Senegal, which withdrew. Obviously the prospect of the most senior partner leaving Air Afrique alarmed all present (withdrawal was later approved by the Ivorian ruling party's political Bureau).

The General Assembly then decided to appoint a temporary *Directoire*, with M. Leopold Kaziende, from Niger, as President. M. Kaziende was appointed in the best tradition of African compromise — because he was the oldest Minister present. M. Malekou and M. Loubry were the other members. M. Kaziende resigned the same day. When the confused delegates returned to their respective

countries, Air Afrique was left in a most complicated constitutional morass. Since then, a succession of visitors and messages have flooded President Houphouët-Boigny's office in efforts to resolve the crisis.

First to arrive was President Diouf, who is expected to mediate if the crisis continues. Then M. Abdoul Diouf, Senegal's Prime Minister, brought a big delegation and a message from President Senghor. It has been unofficially reported that this delegation calmed that M. Sow exceeded his mandate in pushing matters to breaking point, and promised that he would be replaced as a member of the board.

## Abidjan—Dakar politicking

The Senegalese were also reported as having proposed that the Ivory Coast should provide the next chairman (all this would be in return for the Ivory Coast cancellation of the withdrawal decision, and renewed confirmation that President Houphouët-Boigny was not supporting M. Fall politically). President Bongo of Gabon landed at Yamoussoukro, the home town of President Houphouët-Boigny, a few hours after Prime Minister Diouf left. He is said to have some hopes of the Air Afrique post himself although he has not admitted this. He may come forward however, if Senegal did not, after all, help to push an Ivory Coast candidate for the chairmanship.

When President Houphouët-Boigny left for a brief visit to Europe, the impasse was complete. All sides seem to be determined to allow some time to pass and tempers to cool. It's "business as usual" at Air Afrique. M. Fall continues to run the day-to-day business from his 8th floor office in the Abidjan headquarters, plane-loads of tourists arrive in Africa at the same time as thousands "migrate", from the continent for a European vacation. Delays resulting from inexperience in operating the new jumbo DC10 are gradually lessening. Yet, as one Caravelle pilot told me, en route from Dakar to Abidjan, "while the politicians are playing politics — the international reputation of Air Afrique has suffered a severe blow and the morale of its staff has sunk low".

*Correction: In the first part of this article, published last week, Casamance was described as Cheikh Fall's home region. In fact, his father is from Diourbel and his mother from St. Louis.*

# Is there a cocoa famine?:2

Last week our correspondent noted that there is a physical shortage of cocoa to meet the current and future demands, a shortage which, rather than speculation, explains present rocketing prices. Last week physical cocoa was sold at over £800 and futures at over £700 per ton. In his second article our correspondent continues his discussion of the cocoa situation.

The cocoa market is one of the most volatile of commodity markets. For example, reports of relatively small purchases of mid-crop in Ghana last week were a factor pushing prices up. Last week, too, prices were affected by reports from Brazil that heavy rain and falling temperatures had led to warnings to farmers to spray against the possibility of pod rot.

One reason for the volatility is that there are a very small number of big producers. There are the major West African four - Ghana, Nigeria, the Ivory Coast, and Cameroon - the size of whose production is in this order - and Brazil. There are, too, a comparatively small number of significant consumers. Cocoa for the most part also ends up in what is really a luxury product, which has to compete with many other types of confectionery, and indeed with many other possible ways in which consumers can spend their money.

Although the proportion of the cost of the final product represented by the price of raw beans has fallen continuously because of the rise in labour costs in industrialised countries and the growing importance of packaging and advertising, manufacturing companies, nevertheless, are very sensitive to bean price increases, while also being anxious, as they are showing at present, to secure their supplies in the long term to ensure continuous production. Since this is a tree crop, production cannot be increased quickly to meet growing demand, although farmers can harvest more thoroughly and improve their husbandry in response to increases in their prices.

Cocoa production is also highly seasonal, fluctuating from season to season largely according to the weather, although disease also leads to fluctuations. The size of the fluctuations is often exaggerated. But they are significant. For example the 1965 record of 1,275,000 tons exported was followed by a drop of 14 per cent in the succeeding year and further falls in the

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following years. But it is certain that small fluctuations in supply have a totally disproportionate effect on world prices, and that apparently minor factors can also influence the market, which is an hour-by-hour one.

As was pointed out in the recent *Plantation Crops*, (issued by the Commonwealth Secretariat) "in the period 1960-1970 deviations from the (linear) trend of 10 per cent or more occurred on five occasions for values but only three times for volumes, similarly, deviations of between 4 and 10 per cent occurred on four occasions for values but only twice for volumes. For values the greatest deviations were 28 per cent above the trend figure in 1960 and 25 per cent below it in 1966, for volumes the range was 11 per cent below the trend figure in 1960 and 22 per cent about it in 1965"

The Soviet Union and other East European Countries now take significantly greater quantities of cocoa than does the UK, and China waits in the wings, perhaps to become the greatest cocoa market of all (although rich Japan's small consumption does not support this view). But Soviet purchases have not helped to stabilise the world market, since they have been uncertain and often short-term, and once recently were arbitrarily suspended. Yet, currently, Soviet demands of 175,000 tons a year against less than 20,000 tons in 1950, the West German boom, even the Japanese increase to some 35,000 tons a year, represent a substantial market factor. World cocoa production, however, has expanded remarkably too, and until recently more than kept pace with booming demand.

Producers naturally complain that world prices are entirely outside their power, since they cannot quickly or directly control the amount produced nor, because of the difficulty and expense of storing beans, can they hold supplies from the market for any prolonged period. But will the International Cocoa Agreement, the first meeting of whose Council is due on July 30, ever alter the position, even if at present prices the Agreement appears to be somewhat academic?

Although their talk has usually concentrated on "stable" prices, what

producers have always really wanted has been a stable, and high, total net return for their crop rather than stable prices. For these, in view of the annual fluctuations in production, could even mean unstable total net annual returns. Quite apart from the refusal of the Americans to participate in it, it still seems unlikely that the Cocoa Agreement will ensure stability of net total annual returns. Indeed it may well be the big consumers, for whom a stable price is the main consideration, who will gain most from the stable prices which the Agreement might ensure, even if cocoa traders may take a different view. So insofar as the Agreement, with its "buffer" stock, with a maximum of 250,000 tons (which seems unlikely to be accumulated for many years), its export quotas and the complicated price

schedules under which sales to or for the buffer stock would begin, succeeds in introducing an element of stability into world prices, will it really help producers? Will the agreement not present prices rising to stimulate production, or failing to restrain production when it should be restrained?

Since the Americans, the biggest consumers, are not bound by the Agreement, will they be able to buy "cut-price" cocoa when export quotas are in force for members of the agreement? Will there be, as a recent pamphlet\* asks, a two tier cocoa market? Will the producers, in short, really remain united if and when there is once more a cocoa surplus? And if they could remain united in this way, could they not unite to operate their own price policy, quite apart from the consumers? Moreover, prices under the cocoa agreement are in dollars, and it contains no provision for compensating producers in the event of dollar devaluation.

Nevertheless, the fundamental weakness of cocoa producers remains. Unlike oil producers or even sugar producers, their product is not a necessity and they cannot hold their customers, nearly all in non cocoa producing countries, to ransom. The customers would simply cease to consume if the price of cocoa products rose above their idea of what was reasonable.

\*Cocoa: The Beginnings of a Trade Union of the Third World? (the North London Haslemere Group, 12p).

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## GHANA

## Ending educational elitism

from a correspondent

Ghana is still a long way from achieving the high degree of competence in national development that exists in developed countries. Col Acheampong recently told students and staff of the University of Science and Technology in Kumasi: A start could be made in narrowing that gap by increasing the time devoted to teaching science and practical technology in schools, he said. He promised that reforms would soon be introduced to fulfill this need.

Proposals for an increased bias on science and practical subjects at pre-university level are contained in the report of a committee under the chairmanship of Dr N K Dzobo, of Cape Coast University, which together with Ministry of Education comments has been published for public discussion. A final report will later be prepared, which the Ministry hopes to implement in March 1974. The Ministry of Education submitted proposals for the reform of Ghana's education system. A public meeting was held to consider the proposals and it appointed the Dzobo Committee.

Ghana inherited an educational system which provided a certain type of manpower: mainly clerical and administrative which is unable to produce school leavers useful in Ghana's search for self-sufficiency.

One of the main criticisms levelled against Ghana's educational system is "elitism". Only the academically very bright could get through the bottlenecks of a system in which as few as 13 per cent of Middle School pupils are admitted to Secondary schools and only 20 to 25 per cent of Form 5 pupils get into the sixth form. Ghana has a very high rate of school-age children at school - 70 per cent - although there is a great disparity between urban and rural areas. This situation is particularly acute in the Northern and Upper Regions and in parts of Brong Ahafo and the Western Region. The Dzobo Committee, which, incidentally, is not satisfied with the 70 per cent school attendance, insists that any attempt to reform the educational system must give equal opportunities.

The school curriculum, says the report, should equip children to work with their hands and, more important, to be willing to take up practical work. At present there is a high rate of unemployment and under-employment among school leavers because they have neither been trained nor conditioned to practical work.

The length of time spent at school also came under criticism. The average Ghanaian takes 17 years, as opposed to 13 in the UK - for pre-university education. The Committee recommends a reduction to 13 years, six primary and seven secondary, free and compulsory.

One of the Committee's recommendations which has found

special favour with the Ministry of Education, is the provision of nursery education for children between four and six years of age. The Ministry proposes that, because the budget could not stand the cost of providing such a service, the community should provide the buildings, furniture etc while the Government provides staff and other aids.

Secondary education should be split into two parts, says the Report, Junior Comprehensive Secondary Education and Upper Senior. The former would last for three years and include technical, commercial and agricultural courses. The Ministry agrees broadly with these proposals, preferring to call Junior Comprehensive merely Junior Secondary. This process, it says, has already started with the introduction of "continuation classes" into the Middle School course. "All resources, material and human, must be directed towards this one central purpose, namely, the introduction of the Junior Secondary School".

The Ministry proposes that the new six-year primary course will begin with the 1974 intake and that the present Middle School will be reduced to three years in 1973 and completely phased out by 1982. The full Junior Secondary programme will begin in 1980, while the full Senior Secondary course will begin in 1983. The Senior Secondary Upper course will begin in 1985 and university intake from this will begin in 1987. Teacher training will be reorganised. It is on pre-university education that the Committee and the Ministry concentrate. "The nine year basic course will provide a common take-off point for all. In addition it is expected that the parity of esteem being accorded to the post junior secondary school courses and the job opportunities and prospects of advancement now available to graduates from technical and commercial courses will very soon make nonsense of the air of elitism now associated with formal academic education".

This is not the first time that plans have been made to bring education in Ghana more into line with the country's aspirations. Previous governments have been aware of the deficiencies in the system and have realised the need for reforms. The most recent evidence of this was establishment of the Joint Committee of 1970-71 and the Education Sector Committee of the Medium Term Development Plan, which was set up in 1971-72. The Dzobo Committee admits that its recommendations are not all original, some having been made by previous Education Review Committees. As it says, the main problem has been lack of such essentials as adequate finance, and experienced teachers, and an inadequate training programme etc. This time the Education Ministry seems prepared to get to grips with the problem.

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# Ghana's timber boom

Exports of timber and timber products from Ghana have shown a sharp increase in the last 18 months and exports of logs in 1972 were the highest in volume ever recorded. In its latest monthly *Economic Bulletin* the Ghana Commercial Bank comments on the increase in an article summarised below.

Most significant of the increases was in log exports which in 1972 showed an increase of 41.2 per cent on the position a year earlier.

This table shows changes in the physical volume of exports of logs and sawn timber during the past seven years:

Year	Logs (Tons)	Sawn Timber (Tons)
1966	328,600	141,391
1967	341,389	130,114
1968	395,555	146,379
1969	504,726	144,298
1970	394,988	148,499
1971	503,396	136,668
1972	710,947	146,557

Reasons which have been given to explain the rise include:

- (1) Demand for tropical hardwoods which has been fairly good throughout this period;
- (2) Weather in Ghana has been fairly good for extraction;
- (3) The accelerated trade promotion exercise of the Ghana Timber Marketing Board; and
- (4) The efficient manner in which the newly organised Marketing Board has been tackling the problems of the industry.

Export of timber (both logs and processed) is controlled by the Timber Marketing Board (GTMB). Before the board's establishment in 1960, there was no Government-sponsored body which controlled the country's trade. Producers sold and exported timber as they chose subject only to payment of export duty.

## Try and try again

GTMB has passed through a number of phases. In 1960 when the Government decided to control the trade, it set up GTMB as sole buyer and seller of logs and placed it under the Ministry of Trade. In that same year the board hastily signed an agreement with an Italian firm, called Inter-Timber Establishment. A subsidiary, the Ghana Timber Export Company, with exclusive right to market all logs produced in Ghana was to be established. The board was to provide 51 per cent of the capital and Inter-Timber the rest. A subsequent study of the

agreement revealed terms highly inimical to the interests of the trade in Ghana. In January 1961, the Ghana Timber Export Company was liquidated and GTMB was placed under the wing of the Agricultural Produce Marketing Board, itself a division of the Cocoa Marketing Board. It became known as the Timber Division of the Agricultural Produce Marketing Board. This arrangement was also found to be unsatisfactory.

In 1963 a new Timber Marketing Board was established. During this period it was agreed that the Board should impose levies not exceeding 5 per cent of the f.o.b. value on shipment of logs and use such levies for running the board. The operations of the board during this period "left much to be desired". It did nothing to put on the market any of the numerous lesser known species. Even with known species very little effort was made to secure markets and producers and shippers were left to secure their own markets. GTMB was nothing more than a levy collecting agency.

In 1970 a new GTMB was formed and chartered with the following objectives: "To regulate the marketing and exporting of Ghana Timber of all kinds and species whether log or lumber and to secure the most favourable arrangements for the purchase, grading, export and selling of Ghana timber and to assist in the development by all possible means of the timber trade and industry in Ghana."

GTMB was given power: (1) to control and supervise production for export and exporting of sale in Ghana of all types of timber and wood products; (2) to control the number of timber mills and factories and their siting; (3) to declare species which should be turned into finished and semi-finished products for export or for use in Ghana; (4) to stabilise prices and secure the most favourable returns for logs, lumber and other wood products; (5) to assist generally in development of forestry, the timber industry and trade and also to direct the selling of species in accordance with current market demands.

In early 1972, GTMB was reconstituted since then it has, with the help of Bank of Ghana, instituted measures aimed at eliminating under-invoicing of



timber exports and also ensuring that foreign exchange proceeds from exports are repatriated. Payments for all timber and timber products are required to be made by irrevocable letters of credit for 100 per cent of the net f.o.b. invoice value. In exceptional cases 90 per cent payment for log exports might be accepted but only upon a written clearance by the Bank of Ghana that all previous 10 per cent retentions had been satisfactorily accounted for.

## Cutting down commissions

Attempts have also been made to check excessive payments of commissions to overseas agents. Allowable commissions range from 5 per cent (Secondary Species Logs) to 2 per cent (plywood). No commission is payable where sales are made direct to buyers by sellers.

In September 1972, the Board established a subsidiary, Ghana Timbers, to purchase for export timber and timber products and to go into production of logs and lumber.

Ghana Timbers "is expected to play a leading role in the overseas marketing of Ghana's timber". GTMB has a new marketing strategy from July, 1973. Export sales are to be done through only authorised agents. No direct purchases will be allowed. To avoid monopoly and to check the state of the market in all countries to which timber is sold, sole agencies and exclusivity are to be discouraged.

From July all enquiries from the Board's overseas agents will be passed from the GTMB's London office through the Takotadi head office to an exporter who has the exclusive right to quote the maximum price he wants. For all Ghana-based logs, timber, veneer,

plywood and other products, exporters must refer to the board information on what they can export in the next few months. Information on month's stocks and planned production must be made known to the board which will communicate with London with regard to the world.

All business which the agents negotiate is based on price lists. The minimum prices and agents are expected to know the market and allow supply and demand to be the final determinant although they will in any case obtain the highest possible price offer. Every agent has exclusive right to handle whatever production a mill produces.

The Board is in communication with all and relies on its London office to ensure tighter control. The office also supplies information concerning prices, subsidies, special competition from other countries. The London staff are expected to distribute large samples of different timber products to customers. Initially, the London office will establish an export agency to purchase spares and equipment for the industry in Ghana. The Board will retain 2 per cent of f.o.b. Takotadi will handle exports in foreign currencies use by its London office purchase requirements.

The article does not discuss the government's take-out of 10 per cent of capital for export timber enterprises. The Timber and Pseudo-Ghana subsidiary of UAC (Ghana) (West Africa), International Timber and Lumber, the rubber plant of R.T. Bruce & Co. (Ghana), National Hardwood and the Veneer Mahogany

# Letters to the Editor

## Postal thefts

SIR, I read with tremendous joy in your July 9 issue the news that special machinery has been set up in the Ghana Ministry of Transport and Communications to deal with the "alarming" rate of thefts of parcels, postal and money orders. I would like to congratulate the Ministry for such action.

This is the sort of thing one expects of any progressive government, for it cannot be too strongly emphasised that the government can earn a lot in foreign exchange if Ghanaians abroad are not deterred from remitting money to relatives at home by some scoundrels who steal postal packets.

Our families at home are in need of our help especially during these days of severe drought but there has been merely "a far cry" since there is no other way we can help them because our remittances will be lost in the post.

Once again, I say bravo to the Ghanaian authorities for such a wise decision. I would like to add that when people are caught they should be brought to justice. I mean they should be tried and if found guilty then they should be penalised severely but not harassed and punished before they are tried.

KWABENA ANING MNSAH

## Preserving resources

SIR, The so-called cod war between Britain and Iceland highlights the uphill task the smaller nations face in the complex economic jungle we inhabit. Recently, they were said to have reaffirmed their rights of control over twelve miles of their coastal waters.

It is my humble submission that African states should begin to lay claim to considerably more than 12 miles. It doesn't matter if they've got no powerful navies to surveil the waters. An African proverb says that it's only when you pronounce your calabash a dustbin that others start putting dirt in it. We must exert considerable pressure to scare away present and potential "predators" from our slice of nature's "backyard resources" so that by the time we are strong enough to reach for them, they are still there for us to harness.

Another very topical issue is the so-called energy crisis. I'm grieved that Nigeria burns off several millions (billions, I guess) of cubic feet of gas annually in the oil fields while the country still depends a lot on imported cooking gas and several times householders have to scramble around for firewood and kerosene because gas is unavailable. I also think Nigeria still imports petrol or some other petroleum products. Poverty amidst plenty, I would say. Much as we're in a hurry to develop and we need the hard cash to do so, I believe that it is in our long-term interest to "close our eyes" and shut off some of the oil fields until our technological know-how equips us to exploit them more fully.

The oil picture at the moment is one in which a half dozen or so foreign oil companies are all in a frantic search for the "black treasure" and the Nigerian government at best bargains on how much of the proceeds comes to her coffers. This in my mind is the unacceptable side of late 20th century petroleum-capitalism. What we need now is speculative mining. It seems that before the turn of the century, there

is going to come a time when petrol will be increasingly scarce and other energy substitutes still uneconomic. That would be the time to open up all our oil fields, firstly to meet increasing demands within the country and secondly for getting hard cash abroad. If we fail to limit our oil production now, we might find that our embryonic National Oil Company matures only to find that oil is nowhere to be found.

DELE ERINLE

## "Beat the clock"

SIR, I have followed with interest the economic expansion in our oil industry in Nigeria. As a student of administration, I have noticed that "The Nigeria National Oil Corporation Lagos" advertises for various posts but give applicants only five days for applications to reach the Secretary of NNOC at Lagos. For example, applications advertised in the July 2, 1973 issue of *West Africa* requested that applications reach Lagos not later than July 7, 1973.

For the sake of fair play, and to make the efforts of our governments in bringing qualified Nigerians back home a reality, I suggest that overseas applicants be given more than five days for their applications to reach Lagos.

The issue of five days to "beat the clock" becomes ridiculous for students in the US. We do not get *West Africa* until a week after publication. Thus, qualified students from the US are completely cut off from even trying to apply.

Several overseas missions have been mounted especially to the US in order to encourage qualified students to return home. This I believe is a small way in which administrators can help in a matter of great concern to our governments.

By the way, I am not in any way involved in this exercise. I feel I should let my feelings be known for the sake of "public interest".

OLUFEMI ROTIMI

## Enlightening the electorate

SIR, I read with interest your leader "Who Will Lead Nigeria?" (July 2). I was fascinated by the portion of the editorial in which you opined that: "in the end, it is the calibre of the leadership after 1976 rather than the nature of the government apparatus which will matter most".

While I agree with your opinion, I feel it necessary to add that the calibre of the "followership" after 1976 will also matter. Has it not often been said that people get the government they deserve? I or, given a free and fair election, I do not see how the electorate of any nation can hold anyone but themselves responsible for bad leadership that results from the exercise of their civic rights at the polls.

In the course of my work as a journalist, I had occasions during the pre-military era in Nigeria to cover rigged elections. As a result of this experience and judging from the situation which led to the rigging, I find myself unable to agree that such rigging happened without the connivance of a large proportion of the electorate.

For what else can one make of the fact that during those political days, many voters did not hesitate to accept bribes from politicians for the purpose of voting for them at the polls.

Unless the electorate (call it followership if you like) is enlightened enough to rebuff any attempt by politicians to bribe their way into elective political offices, all efforts to get the right calibre of leadership would continue to elude Nigeria.

BOLA ARAGUAYE

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# Commercial News

## Ships in West Africa's trade

Tonnages moving by sea to West Africa in 1971 increased by some 17 per cent compared with 1970, but in 1972 declined by 25 per cent, according to the 1972 report of United Kingdom/West Africa Lines Joint Service. The members are: Elder Dempster Lines, Palm Line, The Guinea Gulf Line, State Shipping Corporation (Black Star Line), Accra, The Nigerian National Shipping Line, Leif Hoegh & Company A/S (Hoegh Lines). Southbound tonnages began to fall towards the end of 1971, and this trend continued throughout 1972, particularly in respect of Ghanaian cargoes. Tonnages moving to West Africa in 1972, therefore, declined by some 25 per cent compared with 1971, and this obliged

the Lines to amend operating schedules. "Towards the end of the year, there were welcome signs that trade to Ghana was picking up again".

47 per cent of UKWAL's southbound trade to West Africa during 1972 moved through Liverpool, 31 per cent through London, 8 through Middlesbrough and the rest from other ports.

Northbound tonnages showed a small increase of about 10 per cent compared with 1971, largely on account of an improvement in timber carryings.

A feature of the UK/West Africa Lines trade since 1969 has been an imbalance between southbound and northbound tonnages, which has obliged the Lines to ballast a number of ships northbound. This imbalance seems likely to

continue and empty space northbound could remain a serious drag on profitability. Trade was seriously disrupted in July and August by the UK dock strike. The lines found it necessary to divert 10 ships to north continental ports. In addition, four ships "sat out" the strike in British ports.

UKWAL decided that they would continue to operate their Express Service to schedule, although this would mean operating a number of southbound sailings in ballast. The cost of the strike to the lines, in ships' idle time and ballast voyages alone, exceeded £500,000.

## More container space

During the year the lines continued to increase their use of the Joint Service organisation for discussion of operational affairs. In particular, they agreed ways of increasing space available for containers, provision of a new terminal at Tilbury, and introduction of a berth licensing arrangement to cover new terminal facilities at Liverpool. UKWAL also

decided to appoint a Load Co-ordinator to improve and extend the use of through unit

Cargo handling costs account for nearly 50 per cent of the Lines' expenditure (compared with 30 per cent in 1962), and a proportion of time in port at sea was 60 to 70 per cent in 1972. For these reasons productivity, both in the UK and West Africa, continues to be of concern.

In the UK, the position is improving slowly, from a base, until the strike. By the end of the year it was apparent that there was a very serious shortage of labour in Liverpool, particularly, which presents both Lines with serious (and expensive) difficulties. Liverpool remains very difficult for the lines to operate. Some Liverpool sailing other UK ports.

"In West Africa the welcome absence of port congestion at Apapa was there any serious dispute. The security of Apapa gave cause for concern during the year. Action by the Port and



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authorities to improve the position was welcomed."

Operating costs increased sharply during the year, and in the last quarter of 1972, were running at some 11 per cent above the level of 1971. The principal increases were in cargo handling and crew costs. These increases do not take into account the cost of idle time, nor do they provide for the very heavy cost of ship replacement.

UKWAL rates have been increased by 15 per cent both southbound and northbound, in mid-1971, to take account of increased operating costs of some 20 per cent in 1970.

Unstated cargo handling will certainly mean a "measure of reinvestment", says the report, and this in turn will mean the need to ensure that the return on capital employed is commensurate with the investment. "Otherwise, there is a real danger that productivity will continue to fall and operating costs to rise. The cost of shipment would then increase to the detriment of shipper and shipowner alike."

In addition to the m.v. *Aurore* — the passenger/cargo liner — and *Clearway* — a roll-on, roll-off motor car carrier — the members of the Joint Service operate a total of 35 general cargo ships, of which the most modern are the "River" class of the Nigerian National Shipping Line, the "Klorie Lagoon" class of the Black Star Line and, particularly from the cargo handling point of view, the *Hoeg Beaver* of Hoeg Lines. Additional ships are obtained on charter from time to time.

## OPEC meeting called

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has called a special ministerial conference for September. It is expected to discuss demands for higher oil prices to offset inflation. OPEC countries are said to be increasingly concerned over inflation, and want to work out policies on new price demands which may be submitted to western oil companies before the end of 1973. The organisation is known to be anxious to renegotiate agreements signed with oil companies



During a three week course at the Kodak Marketing Education Centre, Hemel Hempstead, Mr. S. O. Ayinde. Photo Sales Manager, Kingsway Chemists' Division of UAC of Nigeria, met Mr. Folaran Coker, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information and Tourism, Lagos State, who was visiting Kodak House. Mr. Ayinde is on the left and Mr. Coker in the centre. They are being shown Kodak equipment.

at Tehran in 1971, which were intended to remain in force until the end of 1975.

- The Nigerian Government will introduce measures soon to facilitate issue of import licences to importers, the Federal Ministry of Trade has said. Importers would be graded and steps would be taken to ensure that licences did not fall into "wrong hands". A meeting of the licence committee had been held to work out a formula. About 2,000 applications for licence renewals to import raw tobacco, stockfish, beer, spirits and liquor were being processed in the ministry. Import licences are valid for six months and expire on March 31 of each year after which they are renewed, 43 per cent of licences issued last year lapsed because enough time was not given importers to use them. They were issued in July about four months after they were due and expired in December. There had been allegations of licences "sold" to importers through the "back door".

- ELF-SPAF, the oil company owned by the French state oil company in which the Gabon government has an interest, is now to take the name of ELF-Gabon. A communique from the Presidency in Libreville said that in taking the new name the company had turned a new page, demonstrating the growing policy of Gabonisation called for by President Bongo, and which is being adopted by the private sector.

- A 500,000 naira glass factory has been commissioned at Iperu, in Remo Division of Western Nigeria. The managing director of the company, Remoglass Industries, is a 49-year old Nigerian industrialist, Mr. Reuben Olu Oyedele.

## Import payment delays

Delay in settling import bills is affecting supply of essential goods to industry and forcing up prices, the economic editor of the Nigerian *Daily Times* has written. The Federal Government in the 1973-74 budget abolished the 180-day credit system to allow all bills to be settled after 90 days but "exporters wait not only for 90 days before payment, but for 270 or 360 days". The consequence had been a reduction in supply of essential commodities and rising prices. Delay had

been blamed on supply of incomplete documents by local importers to commercial banks and "purely administrative delay" by the Central Bank to "achieve a fraud-proof system". The Federal Government should act promptly to ensure that bills due to overseas exporters are settled in time to prevent damage to image of the country in the international market, minimise inflation and ensure supply of essential goods to the nation, the editor said.

- WEMA Bank of Nigeria has made a profit of 29,068 naira for the year ended March 31, 1972. The bank increased its nominal share capital from one million naira to 4m naira on March 29, 1973, by creation of 1,500,000 ordinary shares of two naira each. 900,000 of these had been allocated and fully paid for.

- Apex (Ghana) Ltd face liquidation according to reports from Ghana. A circular to staff explained: "The Ministry of Education has unexpectedly cancelled its order for schools and it has, therefore, not been possible to maintain the present level of our production and sales targets to meet the present rate of our expenses, including the salaries and wages of staff". The chairman of the company, the Swiss entrepreneur, Mr. Adolph Pluss, left Ghana after the NRC took power in January 1972.

- Clearing and forwarding industry needs trained and efficient personnel, well maintained equipment and warehouses in addition to knowledge of shipping movement and procedures, of tariff numbers and codes. This was the message of Chief Henry Fajemirokun, president of the Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Mines, to the inaugural meeting of the Association of Nigerian Licensed Clearing and Forwarding Agents in Lagos.

## Shipping News

### ELDER Dempster Lines

**SOUTHBOUND** - From Liverpool: **LIAN** Aug. 2; **DIXCOVE** due Calabar Aug. 3; **KOHIMA** due Port Harcourt Jul. 27.

To London: **FALABA** due Apapa Aug. 6; From Dublin: **DEGEMA** slg. Jul. 28.

From Avonmouth: **EGORI** slg. Jul. 27.

From N. Continent: **MACHAON** slg. Hamburg Aug. 1; **KABALA** due Sapele Jul. 27.

From Poole: **CLEARWAY** due Apapa Aug. 5; From Southampton: **AUREOL** slg. Aug. 1.

**NORTHBOUND** - To Liverpool: **FOURAH BAY** due Aug. 5; **DUNKWA** due Aug. 1; **PEGU** slg. Sapele Jul. 29.

To London: **FULANI** slg. Apapa Jul. 29; **BIHAMO** due Freetown Jul. 27; **SPEYBANK** slg. Takoradi Jul. 30.

To Hull: **DALLA** slg. Takoradi Aug. 2; To Avonmouth: **IRINI** due Tema Jul. 29.

To Belfast: **MANO** due Aug. 2; **LAST BOUND** - From USA/Canada: **DEIDO** due Freetown Jul. 30; **DUMURRA** due Matadi Jul. 30.

**WESTBOUND** - To USA/Canada: **DARU** due Milwaukee Jul. 27; **DUMBAIA** due Freetown Jul. 28.

Eastern Service to West Africa: **ERNBANK** due Lobito Aug. 14; **BARBER LINES**

**OUTWARDS** - **BARBERBROOK** slg. New York Jul. 31; **STEPHENVILLE** Nfid Aug. 3; **MONROVIA**, Abidjan, Takoradi, Tema, Lagos/Apapa, Douala.

**BARBERGATE** slg. New York Aug. 21; **MONROVIA**, Abidjan, Tema, Lagos/Apapa, Douala.

**BOMENARDS** - **BARBERBROOK** due Philadelphia, thence New York; **BARBERGATE** Idg. Takoradi, Abidjan/Monrovia early Aug.

Freetown, 1st half Aug. **BARBERBROOK** Idg. Lagos 5, Bound Aug. 21, Sapele Aug. 23, Monrovia early Sep.

**K LINE** - **WESTBOUND** - From Japan via Hong Kong to Luanda, Port Harcourt, Lagos, Tema, Abidjan; **MUNISHIMA MARU** slg. Japan July 9 due Lagos Aug. 14.

**EASTBOUND** - From Lagos, Abidjan, Freetown; **MISSISSIPPI MARU** slg. Freetown Jul. 30, Tema Jul. 31, Freetown Aug. 3; **Abidjan** Aug. 8 due Hong Kong Sep. 10, Japan Sep. 13.

**BLACK STAR LINE/USNH/WEST AFRICA** - **KLOETE** LAGOON Ghana Aug. 6, Abidjan Aug. 7, Montreal Aug. 20, thence Great Lakes.

**BLACK STAR LINE/UK/CONTINENT/WEST AFRICA** - **SOUTHBOUND** - **BRIM RIVER** La Havre Aug. 1, Rouen Aug. 3, Dunkirk Aug. 6, Bordeaux Aug. 8; **AFRAM RIVER** London Aug. 9.

**NORTHBOUND** - **NAKWA RIVER** Bremen Jul. 26, Amsterdam Aug. 29, Rotterdam Aug. 3; **LAKE BOSOMTWE** London Aug. 13.

**DAFRA LINES** - **EASTBOUND** - **FRANKRIG** slg. New Orleans Aug. 6 due Monrovia Aug. 21, Tema Aug. 25.

**WESTBOUND** - **DAFRA PAUL** slg. Luanda Aug. 16 due Matadi Aug. 17, Pointe Noire Aug. 19.

### PALM LINE

**SOUTHBOUND** - **ENUGU PALM** due Dakar Aug. 3; **IBADAN PALM** due Freetown Aug. 9.

**NORTHBOUND** - **LEELA PALM** slg. Lobito Aug. 7; **LOBITO PALM** slg. Lobito Aug. 6.

**N.Y.K. LINE** - **WESTBOUND** - **SADO MARU** Tema Aug. 10/11, Lagos/Apapa Aug. 12/18, Douala Aug. 20/22, Abidjan Aug. 24/26.

**EASTBOUND** - **SADO MARU** Lagos/Apapa Aug. 12/18, Douala Aug. 20/22, Abidjan Aug. 24/26, Lobito Sep. 1/6, Japan first port.

**MITSUI OSK LINE** - **NORFOLK MARU** slg. Kobe Jun. 26 due Lagos Aug. 14; **PANAMA MARU** slg. Kobe Jul. 27 due Lagos Sep. 6; **LAPLATA MARU** slg. Kobe Aug. 4 due Lagos Sep. 23.

**MAERSK LINE** - **INWARDS** - From Japan via Hong Kong to Lagos, Abidjan; **JESPER MAERSK** slg. Kobe Aug. 5 due Luanda Sep. 1.

**OUTWARDS** - From Matadi, Lagos, Tema, Monrovia, Freetown, Takoradi; **JOHANNES ABERSK** slg. Tema Jul. 31, due Monrovia Aug. 2.

**SCANDINAVIAN WEST AFRICA LINE** - **NORTHBOUND** - **VIKAREN** slg. W.A. 2nd half Aug./Sep. for discharge Scag. late Sep./early Oct; **ARIZHAR** slg. W.A. Sep. for discharge Scag. Oct.

**ROYAL INTEROCEAN LINES** - **INWARDS** - **STRAAT FRANKLIN** slg. Jun. 18 due Monrovia Jul. 31, Freetown Aug. 2; **Port Harcourt** Aug. 6; **Lagos/Apapa** Aug. 9; **STRAAT JACHT** slg. Hong Kong Jun. 12 due Abidjan Aug. 3; **Monrovia** Aug. 6, Freetown Aug. 8, Dakar Aug. 12, Conakry Aug. 16, Abidjan Opt., Takoradi Aug. 20.

**FARRELL LINES** - **HOMES** - **AFRICAN COMET** slg. Lagos Jul. 30 for Port Harcourt, Douala, Abidjan, Monrovia, U.S. Ports; **AFRICA NEPTUNE** slg. Lagos/Apapa Aug. 10 for Matadi, Luanda Aug. 3; **Abidjan, Monrovia, U.S. Ports.**

**OUTWARDS** - **AFRICAN COMET** slg. Lagos Jul. 28 for Abidjan, Takoradi, Tema Aug. 4, Lagos/Apapa Aug. 6, Matadi, Luanda; **AFRICA NEPTUNE** due Dakar Aug. 13 for Freetown, Monrovia Aug. 19, Abidjan, Takoradi, Tema Aug. 27, Lagos/Apapa Aug. 29, Douala.

**W.F. & O. AFRICA LINE** - **SOUTHBOUND** due Pointe Noire Aug. 9, Luanda Aug. 11, Abidjan Aug. 16, Freetown Aug. 21; **NORTHBOUND** slg. Houston Aug. 16, New Orleans Aug. 18 for Tema Sep. 4, Lagos Sep. 8.

**THE LLOYD LINES** - **SOUTHBOUND** - **BOGOTA** slg. Rouen Aug. 1 due Dakar Aug. 8, Monrovia Aug. 11, Abidjan Aug. 14, Lagos Aug. 16, Conakry Aug. 18, Lagos Aug. 19.

**NORTHBOUND** - **SIENA** slg. Monrovia Aug. 1 due Rotterdam/Amsterdam Aug. 9, Hamburg Aug. 2, Bremen Aug. 22, Antwerp Aug. 24, Rotterdam Aug. 26.

**THE NIGERIAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINE** - **WESTBOUND** - **NNAMDI** slg. London Aug. 20 due Lagos/Apapa Sep. 2; **Port Harcourt** Sep. 5.

**NORTHBOUND** - **RIVER BENUE** due Liverpool Aug. 4.

## Metal Box in bottles

**M**etal Box is investing in its first glass-making project in Nigeria. The project in the first phase will cost some £4m.

Located at Agbara, in the Western State, 20 miles from Lagos, the factory is being built with the technical co-operation of Toyo Glass, Japan's largest producer of glass containers. Toyo Glass and Nigerian interests will participate in the equity of the new company. The factory will employ just over 500 people and is expected to produce its first glass by the end of 1974, and its first bottles for beer and soft drinks early in 1975. Mr Pat Barrett, new Managing Director of The Metal Box Toyo Glass Company of Nigeria, said in

London that with a population of 65 million Nigeria was "the largest growth market in Africa". Production at the factory under Phase I would meet the country's present requirements and later would be directed into other fields of manufacture.

Mr. Barrett has been General Manager of The Metal Box's Nigerian factories since Apapa for the past 12 years. A second factory at the design stage and to be built on a ten-acre site near Lagos airport, The Metal Box, Europe's largest packaging organisation, and Toyo Seikan, the Japanese glass parent company, have long been associates.

## Insurance in Ghana

Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance (Ghana) Limited, an insurance company in which Ghanaians now hold 40 per cent interest, has declared a profit of 203,265 cedis for the year ended December 31, 1972. This was contained in the Directors' report submitted to the first Annual General Meeting.

Following a recent Government amendment to the Insurance decree, the company floated 400,000 of its shares out of one million to be purchased by Ghanaians. Out of these a total of 321,525 have been sold. A spokesman for the company said the remaining 78,475 shares had been purchased by the National Finance and Merchant Bank which would also sell to other interested Ghanaians.

According to the balance sheet approved by the meeting, the company had invested a total of 3,346,679 cedis in government stocks, including treasury bills, national development bonds and housing products. The company owns a total of 59,760 shares in other companies and has "Bank deposits at interest" totalling 1,555,000 cedis. For the year ended December 31, 1972, the company paid a total of 329,535 cedis tax.

Mr. Philip Brown Hunter,

Chairman, said the company has a "good Ghana's economic base" in which they provide a service without which it is "impossible for modern commerce to operate in modern conditions". He explained that the "existence of the company opens an avenue of choice for the public, for it is in the interest as it is our duty to keep this avenue open".

The company, established in December 1971, has 50 Ghanaians, Mr. Amos Larson Au. Mr. Benjamin Quarshie-Dua and Mr. Jacob Wallace Quinsu among its seven directors.

● At a meeting of the zone of the franc zone in Dakar June 26, participants discussed the balance payments of the zone. At the meeting French Foreign Minister M. Valéry Giscard d'Estaing said the balance of 1972 was favourable. He registered a surprise in the countries of the zone taking a whole. On the withdrawal of Madagascar from the zone the minister said technical co-operation and monetary level would continue, notably by setting up of the zone's monetary institutions.

● About 10,000 tons of cargo imported since 1969 are yet to be collected by owners from Apapa port complex, Lagos Ports Operations Committee chairman, Alhaji B.M. Tukur, has told newsmen. Failure by owners to collect the goods had given rise to allegations of pilfering at the port. Goods had piled up and had taken up valuable space.

Alhaji Tukur blamed non-collection of goods by their owners on failure to produce relevant documents, inadequate markings and inconspicuous addresses on packages and wrong packaging resulting in breakage and loss of identity. He said that a cargo information centre had been set up at the quays to help importers trace goods and shipping companies had been warned not to accept inadequately marked goods. Alhaji Tukur announced that a 600-page list of unclaimed cargoes presumed stolen would be sent to chambers of commerce, shipping companies and clearing and forwarding agencies to enable them to claim missing goods. Receipt and storage of cargoes were being improved and courts had been set up to deal with offenders. Alhaji Tukur said that the current annual turnover of 3½m. tons of goods at the port was scheduled to be achieved by 1976. The 800 to 1,000 tons handled daily was the highest by any West African port. He noted that pilfering had been reduced considerably.

## Somima losses

Copper production at the Somima mine in Mauritania totalled 14,900 metric tons in 1972, according to the annual report of the chairman of Charter Consolidated, one of the partners in the enterprise. This was a considerable improvement over 1971 production, "but fell seriously short of the target". Mechanical problems in the treatment plant had persisted and the percentage recovery of copper from ore had been well below target. It was evident that the original estimate of the amount of copper recoverable from the ore was optimistic. "The size of the deposit is such as to

rule out any substantial expansion of operations or other means of increasing profitability, and exploration has failed to reveal any material extension to the mineralisation". Loss for the year was over \$15m. At the current higher copper price revised forecasts showed that estimated revenue during the coming year should cover operating costs, loan interest, and normal capital expenditure but would be insufficient to provide for schedule loan repayments.

Charter Consolidated has been "much encouraged" by results at Tenke-Fungurume in Shaba (formerly Katanga), said the Chairman. In Shaba the company participates with the Zaire government and international partners in a consortium to which it provides technical and administrative services.

■ Ghana and Swaziland have concluded an agreement to expand mutual economic and trade relations. Under the agreement Ghanaian exports to Swaziland will include sawn timber, cocoa products, furniture and footwear. Swaziland will sell Ghana rice, cotton lint and canned beef.

● Feasibility studies are being carried out for the Volta Regional Development Corporation on a brick and tile factory, a cattle ranch, sugar cane industry and other projects in Ghana.

● Sardines, mackerel and herrings canned in Ghana will be on the market in September, according to the managing director of the Tema Food Complex, Col Bonsu.

● World prices of Nigeria's major agricultural export commodities improved substantially in March, says the Central Bank report. The all-commodities price index stood at 126.8 points (1960 = 100), representing increases of 6.3 and 44.4 per cent, compared with the previous month and March 1972 respectively. At 181.1 points (1960 = 100) in March, the composite consumer price index was 0.8 per cent higher than in February, although 1.0 per cent lower than in March 1972.

The trade balance for the first quarter of the year was a surplus of N68.6m., compared with N55.8m. in the corresponding period of 1972.

Nigeria's official holdings of gold and convertible currencies (including SDRs) at the end of March amounted to N311.9m., compared with N250.8m. at the end of the previous month and N257.2m. at the end of March 1972.

● World demand for rubber will almost double, to 17m. tons, by 1980, of which some 37 per cent would be natural rubber, a planters' conference has been told in Malaysia. Two research experts called on producers of natural rubber to make "relentless" efforts to ensure that they produce enough to meet world demand. Noting that the price of rubber today is over twice that of last year, the Malaysian Minister for Primary Industries said that they still had to keep a competitive edge over synthetic.

■ A new offshore oil find is reported in an area seven km. north of Apoi in Nigeria's Rivers State. The area is jointly held by the Texaco Overseas (Nigeria) Petroleum Company and the Federal Oil Company of Nigeria.

## Berec's 45% dividend

Berec Nigeria's new battery factory at Isolo, near Lagos, will begin production in September, its chairman, Chief Julius Agbaie, has told the annual general meeting in Lagos. Because of loss of company land through compulsory acquisition for road building by the government, the company had acquired 12.6-acres land on a 40-year lease at Isolo. Claims for compensation had been lodged with the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing. A profit of 1,485,115 naira was recorded before tax for the year ended March 3. Consequently a final dividend of 25 per cent had been recommended for financial year 1972-73 making a total of 45 per cent. Of 749 employees, there are 746 Nigerians.

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2. Wope Me A Ka, Parts I and II
3. Susu See Me Asamando Akwantu

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or  
141 Nelson Road, London, N8  
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THE AFRICAN  
BROTHERS BAND

will NOT be playing  
LYCEUM BALLROOM  
Friday 3rd August  
The Band will  
definitely be playing  
at Liverpool

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NEGRICAN, 32 yrs, ex  
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with 9 years experience,  
experience, seeks position  
management position in  
of West Africa. Ready to  
any necessary training  
already in Nigeria. Home  
Box No. 21450, New  
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London, W14 8JZ.

## SITUATIONS VACANT

GHANA GOVERNMENT  
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Ghanaian students who wish to be considered for scholarship awards for courses in Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine, Mining Engineering and Forestry are invited to apply for the necessary application forms (PSC Form 1) and details of qualifications from: The Head of Chancery, Ghana High Commission (Education Section), 8 Queen's Gate, London, SW7.

Completed application forms should be accompanied by photostat copies of academic qualifications, testimonials and evidence of satisfactory progress on the course. They should reach the above address on or before 15th September, 1973.

## GROUP CONTROLLER

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced Nigerian nationals for appointment as Group Controller with a diverse and expanding group of companies in Lagos.

The appointee, who will probably be a Chartered Accountant, will receive a commencing salary of not less than N6,000 plus a car allowance, car loan and relocation facilities. Other benefits include 4 weeks annual leave and free medical facilities. The successful candidate would also be eligible for early appointment to the Board.

The commencing date will be 1st October, 1973. Applications should be addressed to: The Managing Director, P.O. Box 2442, Lagos.

NIGERIAN  
ACCOUNTANTS

It is not necessary to remain in Britain after qualification. A leading international firm offers - First-class professional experience in Nigeria. Earnings well above those current in the U.K. Assisted passage. Apply Rosemary Griffin, Tel. 01 636 7777

## Trade Manager

Evans, one of Nigeria's leading Educational publishers, wishes to appoint a new Trade Manager. The man we are seeking will be expected to take full responsibility for all trade aspects of our business: warehousing, credit control, liaison with the book trade, and office administration. He will be directly responsible to the Managing Director but must be prepared to work entirely on his own. He must thrive on responsibility and be capable of giving enthusiastic leadership to warehouse and office staff.

Applicants must be Nigerian citizens, have previous managerial experience in a similar job at this level and have a sound educational background. For this very demanding job with a progressive and fast expanding Book Publishing Company, we offer an attractive salary, pension rights and other benefits.

Write with full details (enclosing two passport photos, photostat copies of educational qualifications, testimonials of previous employers and the names of three referees) to the Managing Director, Evans Brothers (Nigeria Publishers) Limited, P.M.B. 5164, Ibadan.



## DANCES Cont.

## EXPENSIVE OLUBI

plays for the

## OKE-IGBO/IFETEDO UNION

on the 4th August 1973

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Come and see the "Somorue Girls" from Lagos doing their "things" in latest juju gigs  
Time: 7.30 p.m. until 12.30 a.m.

All Are Welcome

Tube: District and Piccadilly Lines - Ealing Common Station  
Buses: 207, 7, 266, E1 and 89

Boris Owo Ade, President

## ANNUAL DANCE

## CALABAR UNION OF GT. BRITAIN &amp; IRELAND

At Royal Commonwealth Society  
Commonwealth Hall, 16-20 Craven Street, London W.1  
on Saturday 4th August 1973 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

in aid of

Hospital and Medical Equipment for Calabar  
Hospitals at Calabar, South Eastern State, Nigeria

Buses: 1, 11, 12, 29, 77, 88, 134  
Tube: Charing Cross, Strand & Trafalgar Square

Miss N. A. Nkpusang (Social Secretary)  
11 Foulser Road, London, S.W.17

## SITUATIONS VACANT Cont.

## KWARA STATE COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

ILORIN, NIGERIA, W.A.

Vacancy for

### PRINCIPAL

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the post of **PRINCIPAL** of the Kwara State College of Technology, Ilorin.

The College was established by Kwara State Government Edict, No. 4 of 1972, as an autonomous institution for the education and training of middle-level man-power in scientific, technological and managerial fields at the professional level with special emphasis on practical orientation during training. The College opened with the teaching of Basic Science in January, 1973.

#### Duties:

The Principal is the Chief Academic and Executive Officer of the College. He is expected to provide the requisite leadership in the field of Curriculum Development and Reform. He is to extend the services of the College to, and secure the services of governments, industry, commerce and corporations.

#### Qualifications:

Applicants should hold a good honours degree in Engineering or be a member of a professional body and have had some considerable educational and administrative experience preferably in a technical field. Capacity for pioneering work and a sense of dedication are considered essential. Higher degrees, university or industrial experience will curl some advantage.

#### Salary:

48,000 (£4,000) per annum consolidated.

#### Conditions of Service:

Except otherwise stated, appointments are to commence as soon as possible and for four years initially, subject to review thereafter. There is provision for non-contributory superannuation, free passage, free medical attention, children and car allowances and fully furnished accommodation.

#### Method of Application:

Seven copies of each application giving the fullest details of the applicant's qualifications, and career, names and addresses of three referees of note should be submitted under registered cover to reach the Senior Assistant Registrar, Kwara State College of Technology, Private Mail Bag No. 1375, Ilorin, not later than 11th August, 1973.

SENIOR ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

#### SIERRA LEONE

Applications are invited from

### Sierra Leonean Nurses

for appointment as

### WARD SISTER

in the medical establishment of  
THE NATIONAL DIAMOND MINING  
COMPANY (SIERRA LEONE) LIMITED

Applicants must hold S.R.N. and S.C.M. They must have had considerable theatre experience as well as medical and surgical experience since obtaining these certificates.

A commencing salary of Le.1560 p.a. will be paid to suitably qualified and experienced nurses.

Applications stating age, marital status and experience should be sent to:

The Appointments Officer, (Ref. 312),  
Sierra Leone Selection Trust Limited,  
Selection Trust Building,  
Mason's Avenue,  
London, EC2V 5BU

### AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY NIGERIA

Applications are invited for posts of  
1st SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOWS  
1st RESEARCH FELLOWS IN  
ARCHAEOLOGY, CINEMATOGRAPHY,  
MUSEOLOGY AND MUSICOLOGY

in the Centre for Nigerian Cultural Studies. Candidates should have a good honours degree in relevant fields. Field experience of a higher degree and technical qualifications (where appropriate) in their chosen fields will be an advantage. In the field of Cinematography, cinematization will be given to candidates without a degree, but with appropriate technical qualifications of the level of Senior Technician or above.

Duties will be as follows: **Archaeology** - appointed initially will be required to make a survey of archaeological sites in northern Nigeria so as to help establish priorities for the Centre's archaeological programme. **Cinematography** - appointees will be required to work with other Research Fellows in the Centre, to disseminate various aspects of Nigerian culture. Experience in making ethnographic films is therefore essential. **Museology** - appointees should have experience in running museums and be required to assist the Centre in the planning and collection of the Museum. **MusicoLOGY** - appointees should have experience in musical composition, field work and will be required, apart from conducting research into Nigerian traditional music, to assist the Centre with its programme of presenting Nigerian traditional music. In all cases, appointees will be required to help to run Assistant Research Fellows in their particular fields.

Salary scales: 1st N5,030 N6,050 p.a. 1st N2,760 N4,830 p.a. (£1 sterling = N1.68). The British Government may supplement Senior Research Fellows' salaries by £1,950 p.a. (to bring the assured appointee to £500 p.a. (sterling) for single appointees (normally free of all tax) and provide children's, medical, education and holiday visit passages. This supplement will only be applied to appointments at Research Fellow level. Family passages, various allowances, superannuation, educational overseas leave. Detailed applications (2 copies including a curriculum vitae and naming 3 referees, should be forwarded by airmail, not later than 23 August 1973 to the Registrar, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria. Appointees resident in U.K. should also send 1 copy to Inner University Council, 90-91 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 0LP. Further particulars may be obtained from either address.

SITUATIONS VACANT Cont.



## NORTHERN NIGERIA INVESTMENTS LIMITED

Vacancy For An

### ACCOUNTANT

**Job:**

Preparation of Budgets, Quarterly and Annual Accounts; Comparison of actual results with budgets and detailed reporting thereon; Management of Cash Resources; Preparation of Cash Flow forecasts; Preparation of Senior Staff Salaries, Exchange Control Matters, Tax Matters; Examining in conjunction with investment staff the financial aspects of proposed investments including preparation of profitability; Asset and Cash Flow forecasts; Reviewing; and Reporting to Management on Annual and Interim Accounts received from Associated Companies; Advising Associated Companies on financial matters; such other duties as may be delegated to him by the Company Secretary who is the Chief Financial Officer.

**Qualifications:**

Membership, or eligibility for membership of the Nigerian Institute of Chartered Accountants.

**Salary:**

Negotiable, but probably starting in the range N4,500-N5,500 p.a. depending on experience.

**Other Benefits:**

First class furnished housing at low rental, car allowance, Provident Fund Scheme, life assurance cover. All applications stating age, academic and professional qualifications, present salary, previous experience and names of three referees together with photocopies of certificates should be addressed to:

The General Manager,  
Northern Nigeria Investments Limited,  
Bank of the North Building,  
Yakubu Gowon Way,  
P.O. Box 138,  
Kaduna, Nigeria.

not later than 31st August, 1973.

## NIGERIA AIRWAYS LIMITED

Vacancies for

### MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for appointment as Management Trainees in the Nigeria Airways Limited.

**Qualifications:** Candidates should possess a good honours degree in Economics or Arts or Social Studies or equivalent professional qualifications in Commerce and Industry, and should be between the ages of 21 and 30 years.

Candidates with airline experience will stand at an advantage.

Candidates will be required to undergo training locally and abroad on all aspects of airline operations and if successful, will be deployed to the various departments of the airline.

An exciting job with limitless career prospects awaits the right candidates.

**Salary:** Professional scale SAP 1 N2,040 x 84 N2,208/2,580 x 110 N2,770/3280 x 120 N4,120.

Point of entry depends on qualifications and experience.

**Closing Date:** Applications should be addressed to the

#### PERSONNEL MANAGER

Nigeria Airways Limited  
Airways House  
Ikeja, Nigeria

to reach him not later than 20th August, 1973.

Photostat copies of qualifications should be attached to applications.

Personnel Manager

DANCES Cont.

### THE GHANA STUDENTS' UNION present THE AFRICAN BROTHERS BAND

at  
BATTERSEA TOWN HALL

Saturday 4th August

From 7 p.m. to 12 midnight

Admission £1.25

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All are Welcome

Organiser: 01 986 2575 or 01 348 7799

## SITUATIONS VACANT Cont.

# Opportunities for Ghanaian Graduates

The United Africa Company of Ghana has vacancies for Ghana university graduates with about 2 years post graduate working experience in an industrial or commercial field.

Applicants must be under 30 years of age and hold either a B.A. or B.Sc. degree.

They will enter the employ of the Company as Probationers and after a period of training in Ghana will be considered for promotion to managerial positions.

For men with initiative, intelligence and drive, there are good prospects of progressing to senior appointments in the Company.

Applicants presently in the U.K. will be interviewed in London and those who are successful will be given firm promises of employment.

Apply stating age and qualifications to—

The Recruitment Manager,  
UAC International Limited,  
P.O. Box 1, Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 9UG

## UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA NSUKKA

Vacancy

### POST OF REGISTRAR

Applications are invited from graduates of at least ten years standing for the post of Registrar. Candidates should have a wide and varied experience in high level administration. Experience in higher educational administration would be an advantage.

The Registrar is responsible to the Vice-Chancellor for the day to day administration of the affairs of the University. He is also Secretary to the University Council and to the University Senate.

Appointment to commence as soon as possible, is for three years initially and subject to review thereafter.

Salary is N7,100 (£3,500) a year. Other conditions include children's and car basic allowances, super-annuation scheme, medical scheme, part-furnished subsidised accommodation.

Detailed applications (12 copies), stating age, full qualifications and experience and naming three referees should be addressed to

The Vice-Chancellor,  
University of Nigeria,  
Nsukka, Nigeria

from whom further particulars may be obtained, not later than 15th September, 1973.

## SITUATIONS VACANT

Also on Pages 1047, 1048, 1049, 1051, 1052

### DANCES Cont.

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Come Out and Enjoy

This Interesting Atmosphere

Make it a Great Evening for Your Dinner and Dance  
by the Popular, the Indigenous, the Professional No. 1

#### BLACK STAR LINE BAND from GHANA

They will make it a real evening for you

#### Remember

The magnificent Hilton Hotel at Hyde Park Corner on

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from 7 p.m. to 3 a.m.

There will be a Crowning of Miss Black Star Queen  
for Europe. First Prize: Free Trip to and from Ghana

There will be Consolation Prizes

Tickets: £5 Flat for Dinner and Dance

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There will be a Silver Collection for

for non-paying guests

All Are Welcome

For tickets please contact

The Organising Secretary, Ghana Black Star Line,

32-38 Duke's Place, EC3

Telephones: 01 283 2716, 01-203 0183

01-733 0346, 01-544 0077

## SITUATIONS VACANT Cont.

## Nigeria

## East Central State of Nigeria

Deputy Controller  
of PlanningMinistry of Economic  
Development and  
Reconstruction

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for consideration for appointment as DEPUTY CONTROLLER OF PLANNING in the Ministry of Economic Development and Reconstruction. The Ministry is primarily responsible for the preparation and follow up of development plans.

## SALARY

£18,000 plus N6,000 Group 5 (consolidated)

## DUTIES

The successful candidate will assist the Controller of Planning in directing and co-ordinating the planning and research work of the Ministry as well as in organising workshops, programmes and studies on specific projects of the State economy.

## QUALIFICATIONS

- (i) A Master's Degree in Economics or Science or Engineering including post-graduate training in planning.
- (ii) Five years experience in planning and/or research gained after training in planning.
- (iii) A good grounding in quantitative methods and in programming and projection techniques.

## OTHER CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

(1) The post is pensionable and appointment will be on probation for three years in the case of new entrants into Government service.

(2) Rent is payable at 8% of basic salary subject to a maximum of N480 per annum when an officer is occupying standard furnished quarters and at 7% of basic salary subject to a maximum of N380 per annum if an officer is occupying unfurnished standard permanent or semi-permanent quarters.

## METHOD OF APPLICATION

(1) Applications should be addressed to the Secretary, Public Service Commission, P.M.B. 1063, Enugu, so as to reach him not later than 31st August, 1973.

(2) Applications from candidates not in government service should be completed on duplicate on Form PSC 1 obtainable from the Secretary, Public Service Commission P.M.B. 1063, Enugu.

(3) Applications from candidates in Government service should be submitted through the Head of the applicant's department and should be accompanied by an up-to-date confidential report.

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## NOTICES Cont.

WEST LONDON CHURCH OF THE LORD  
(ALADURA)

celebrates their

## THIRD BIRTH ANNIVERSARY CHURCH SERVICE

on Sunday 2nd September, 1973 from 1 pm to 3 pm

at usual place of worship

St. John's Wood Presbyterian Church

Marlborough Place, N.W.8

Free refreshment will be served after the Service in the Church Hall. You are all cordially invited to this great occasion. "West Church of the Lord prevails". Come and see the working power of Holy Spirit Divine, conducted by members of the Church Army of Jesus and Ladies Praying Band. Their miraculous achievements by means of devoted prayer can not be over estimated. Please do not hesitate to come and worship with us any Sunday at the same time, same place. Looking forward to seeing you all.

Nearest Underground Stations: St. John's Wood  
or Maids Vale. Buses: 8, 16, 618, 176

ALLERIA! ALLERIA! ALLERIA!

## DANCES Cont.

## THE BLACK STAR DANCE

follow The Black Star to a  
NON-STOP DANCE

at Battersea Town Hall  
Lavender Hill, London, SW11

on Saturday

11th August 1973  
from 6 p.m. till 12 midnight

Music by the fabulous  
professional

Black Star Line Band  
of Ghana

on tour in Europe  
Featuring the most

wanted lady vocalists  
from West Africa

1. Gifty Rufai
2. Welhemina Mensah  
(formerly with the  
Police Band)

Supported by the  
indomitable and  
irresistible Nana Asante's  
Apex Disco

Admission £1.00 Flat

Licensed Bar

All Are Welcome

Kwasi Dampay

Programme Organiser

Telephone: 01 228 4163

GHANA STUDENTS UNION  
of Great Britain & Ireland  
presentsA GRAND AFRICA  
UNITY DANCE

at the fabulous  
Lyceum Ballroom

Strand, London, W.C.1  
on Friday 3rd August 1973  
from 12 midnight to 6 a.m.

Dancing to top bands  
from Ghana featuring  
C.K. Mann and his Famous 7

plus  
The Black Star Line Band  
featuring the most wanted lady  
vocalists from West Africa:

1. Gifty Rufai
2. Welhemina Mensah  
(formerly with the Police Band)

also  
The Afro National  
(from Sierra Leone)

Admission in advance £1.50  
at door: £1.80

Licensed Bar Refreshments

All Are Welcome

Tickets obtainable

Telephone: 01-688 8508

01-266 3893, 01-228 4163

Kwasi Dampay

General Secretary

## NOTICE

Will Readers please note  
STEPHEN OJISA OSADEBE  
and his Nigeria Music  
Makers Band

will be appearing at Chesham  
Town Hall, Manchester on  
Friday August 3rd and not  
August 9th as advertised in  
23rd July issue of 'West  
Africa'.

## DANCES Cont.

**EGBE OMO EKITI**

of Great Britain &amp; Ireland

proudly presents the greatest  
**SUMMER DANCE OF THE YEAR**at Lyndhurst Hall, Warden Road, Queen's Crescent, London NW5  
on Saturday 4th August, 1973

Starting at 6.30 p.m. until 11.30 p.m.

*Under the distinguished Chairmanship of*  
Mr. J.O. Shedowo

and Mrs Adeola Oguntayo &amp; Mrs Ida Roof

Supported by eminent Nigerians and Special Guests of Honour

Music by a leading Nigerian band

Tickets: Double £1.00; Single: 75p

All are Welcome

Nearest Underground Stations

Kensington Town, Chalk Farm, Camden Town

Buses include: 3, 24, 27, 53, 68, 45, 134, 137, 214

Olu Otasehinde,  
(Social Secretary),  
15 Matilda House,  
Thomas More Street, E1  
Tel: 01-480 5869A. Ibrinke,  
(Secretary),  
126 Graham Road, E8**EGBADO UNION'S  
GRAND ANNUAL SUMMER DANCE**

will take place this year at

Place: York Hall, Old Ford Road, E2

Date: Saturday 4th August 1973

Time: 7 p.m. to 11.30 p.m.

Buses: 6, 8, 8A, 35, 55, 106 and 253

Tube: Bethnal Green (Central Line)

Admission by ticket £1 flat - obtainable at the gate

Music by

**LORD MAYOR SULE AGBOOLA  
and his Moon Light Band**Easily and admittedly the most melodious and  
best equipped Nigerian band in London this summer*Under the distinguished Chairmanship of*  
Mohamed Alade Bada, B.L., A.C.I., A.B.S.C., D.M. D.F.A.  
and supported by many eminent Nigerians

All are Welcome

For further details contact:

B. A. Akimide (President),  
91 Woodstock Road, N4  
Tel: 01 272 2610S. D. Idowu (Social Secy),  
64 Ravenshoe Road, S.W.17  
Tel: 01 673 0380

## SITUATIONS VACANT Cont.

**Nigeria**  
**East Central State of Nigeria****Higher  
Instrument  
Technologist**

Scale C(T)5 £1753 - £1882 (N2784 - N2988)

**QUALIFICATIONS**

- (1) Higher National Certificate or Higher National Diploma or the full Technologist Certificate of the City and Guilds of London  
(2) In addition to the above qualifications candidates should have a minimum of four years post-qualification experience

**DUTIES**

- (1) Servicing and repairs of hospital instruments and appliances  
(2) Training of junior staff of the cadre in the care and maintenance of hospital instruments

**OTHER CONDITIONS OF SERVICE**

- (1) The post is permanent and appointment will be on probation for three years in the case of new entrants into Government Service  
(2) Rent is payable at 8% of basic salary subject to a maximum of N460 p.a. when an

officer is occupying standard furnished quarters and of N300 p.a. if the officer is occupying self-contained standard government or public accommodation quarters.

**METHOD OF APPLICATION**

Applications should be addressed to the Secretary, Public Service Commission, P.M.B. 1063 Enugu, on or before the date later than 31st August 1973. Applications from candidates not in Government Service should be completed in duplicate on Form PSC 1 obtained from the Secretary, Public Service Commission, P.M.B. 1063 Enugu. Applications from candidates in Government Service should be submitted through the Head of the applicant's Department and should be accompanied by an up-to-date Confidential Report.

**IKORODU  
DIVISIONAL  
ASSOCIATION**

(London Branch)

Calling all lovers of music

to their

**Grand Annual****Summer Dance**

on

**Saturday 4th August 1973**

at the F. Mabury Tavern

from 6pm until 11.30pm

Under the distinguished

Chairmanship of

Alhaji Fasan Akintola

Ilesia Olowo Buba Gar

Chief Alaisheh Adimu

of Ikorodu

Supported by

Eminent Personalities

Music by the

Leading Band from Nigeria

on Tour of Great Britain

**M.A. JAIYESIMI & HIS****CRESCENT BROS BAND**

Admission by Invitation

and Tickets

Tickets: £1.00 Flat

obtainable at gate

All are Welcome

**Relax With Us - One Day -****Dance to the New Tune****M.A. JAIYESIMI and****and feet at Normal****Bar (Inn) at the**

Nearest Underground Station

is Northern Line and the

Buses 19, 30, 38, 140 and

171.

**PRINCE J.S. OGBURN**

President, 123 Myrtle

London, S.E. 24, Tel:

01 733 6918, M.A. Akintola

Social/Publisher, 2nd

Powellcroft Road, Queen

E.9, Tel: 01 986 3241.

**Help build the new Nigeria**

# Dateline Africa

GHANA

## Romania promises aid

Romania is prepared to supply Ghana with agricultural machinery such as heavy tractors and combine harvesters, said the leader of a three-man Rumanian agricultural team. He said Rumania was also prepared to enter a joint venture with the Cotton Development Board, and was interested in co-operating with Ghana in the development of food crops like rice, bananas, cotton, jute, maize and livestock, as well as the establishment of a food industry.

Col. Agyekum receiving the delegation in the Northern Region, said Ghana would appreciate assistance in supplying funds for irrigation, on livestock production, the Commissioner said although studies had been carried out on how to improve Ghana's livestock industry. The country always experienced shortages of meat. He suggested that the studies on livestock production in the Northern Region be made available to the team to see how they could help.

Ghana has condemned Portugal for what it called the massacre of innocent Africans and the indiscriminate bombing of villages in Guinea-Bissau. An official statement said the government had learnt with horror and dismay the massacre of Africans, including women and children by Portuguese colonialists. It called on members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation to refrain from giving moral and material support to Portugal in her colonial wars in Africa. The statement added that Ghana would continue to extend all assistance to freedom fighters in Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau.

Col. Acheampong has

urged members of the armed forces to stay away from disgruntled politicians who he said had resorted to intrigues to discourage the government from achieving its objectives.

Addressing a passing-out parade of 25 Officer-Cadets at the military academy at Teshie, Col. Acheampong said "These politicians have gone through a whole series of intrigues including character assassination and economic sabotage and anonymous letter-writing to embassies in Ghana and other agencies abroad".

Col. Acheampong said that such politicians believed that the armed forces would thus be scared into handing over power to them. He warned the cadets to stay clear of the smiles of persons whose permanent preoccupation was to sow seeds of dissent.

## Regional co-operation

A joint delegation from Togo and Nigeria called on Colonel Acheampong as follow-up to a letter which the Nigerian Head of State, General Gowon had sent to Colonel Acheampong. Those from Togo included the Minister of Finance, Jean Ewe, and the Minister of Commerce, Industry Planning and Tourism, Henri Dogo. The Nigerian team included the Commissioner for Economic Development and Reconstruction, Prof. Adedayo Adedun, and R.A. Ladipo, Director of the Ministry of External Affairs.

Togo will not shield any of her nationals caught smuggling cocoa, diamonds or other commodities in Ghana, the Togo Ambassador, Mr. Nicholas Akou, told Togo nationals in Koforidua.

The Volta Region will be supplied with electricity from the Ghana-Togo transmission lines, Col. Nyante, the Regional Commissioner said

when commissioning a 250,000 volt electricity supply for Holole. The NRC, he said, has approved the tapping of the Akosombo grid at Asepe for the power to be sent to Ho, where it would radiate to other parts of the Region.

Col. Nyante denied rumours that the NRC would tax farmers on the size of their farms. The NRC could not preach Operation Feed Yourself and then tax farmers on their successes, he said.

## Plot appeals quashed

A High Court has dismissed applications to quash the conviction of two of nine people serving sentences for their part in a plot to overthrow the National Redemption Council last July. They are George Kofi Otuasa-Amaah, head of the Special Branch under Dr Busia, and Private Charles Adu-Boating. Mr. Otuasa-Amaah, Pte. Adu-Boating and six others, including five soldiers, were sentenced to death by a military tribunal in November last year on charges of conspiracy to commit subversion and concealment of subversion. The sentences were later commuted to life imprisonment. Dismissing the applications, the Presiding Judge, Mr Justice I. Abban, said he was satisfied that the military tribunal had the jurisdiction to try the accused under the charges preferred against them.

Ghana has no time for litigation and disunity disputes which deplete the people, Col. Agyekum, Northern Region Commissioner, said at Yendi during the inauguration of the Dagomba Traditional Council Judicial Committee. Whenever such disputes did arise, he said, they should be referred to the judicial committee for amicable settlement. Col. Agyekum urged the chiefs not to allow bribery, corruption or nepotism to influence them.

The Commissioner for Local Government, Major-General Aleri, has urged African youth to be prepared for service in liberated areas of countries still under colonial rule. General Aleri, patron of the Ghana United

Nations Students' Association was speaking at a dance organised to aid the African Liberation Fund. He said the liberated areas needed the services of doctors, teachers, nurses and technicians.

"We look forward anxiously to the day when Ghanaian volunteers will undertake relief work in times of disaster in other African states", the Commissioner added.

At a farewell lunch for the Israeli Ambassador, Mr. A. Cohen, the Commissioner for Foreign Affairs, Major Baah paid tribute to the Israeli Government for offering scholarships for the training of Ghanaians in medicine, agriculture, communications, rural development, and also experts overall development. Mr. Cohen said his country's co-operation with African states had been based on the philosophy that Africans must be helped to attain higher living standards.

A Public Accounts Committee has been set up to study the latest Auditor-General's Report (see last week's issue) and implement its recommendations. Lt. Col. Emmanuel, Assistant to the Commissioner for Finance, said that the Government was disturbed by the high incidence of embezzlement of public funds, improper record keeping and over-spending by public boards and corporations.

Two Upper Volta nationals have been detained by military authorities for questioning in connection with large quantities of underground cables and other metals found on a truck bound for Ouagadougou. When the truck was searched, the cables, believed to belong to the Posts and Telecommunications Department and Electricity Corporation, were found.

Recently there has been large-scale theft of underground cables in Ghana disrupting communications. About two weeks ago, communications between Accra and the outside world were temporarily cut off following the theft of large quantities of cables belonging to the Cable and Wireless. Under the Subversion Decree, theft of underground telephone cables is punishable by death by firing squad.

Plans are underway to make the Afram Plains a more productive area, Col. Minyila, Eastern Region Commissioner, has announced. Negotiations are underway to set up a cassava chip factory at Forfori and a fish complex at Amankwaakrom.

Col. Agyekum, Northern Region Commissioner, has advocated the decentralisation of operations of the food Distribution and Production Corporations. The Food Production Corporation, he said, had not been able to produce as much as the Government had wanted and the Food Distribution Corporation's performance had been far below expectation. "Your kiosks are empty and you have closed them down and your prices are even higher than those of the market women. Instead of bringing down food prices, you are now competing in increasing prices", Col. Agyekum said.

Timber companies which owe the Ghana Railway and Ports Authority for freight charges have been given until September 1 to pay or face the withdrawal of their truck allocations.

## Meat from Niger

Niger can supply Ghana with all her meat and cattle requirements provided a "concrete agreement" was signed, the Niger Ambassador is reported to have said.

Niger is one of the six West African countries most severely affected by the drought that has struck the Sahelian zone.

Cdr. Kyremeh, Western Region Commissioner, has announced that plans are being prepared for the redesign of the seven district capitals in the current financial year. Priority will be given to roads and low cost housing.

The history of communal labour in the Western Region was extremely poor. Cdr. Kyremeh, told the Regional House of Chiefs. He urged the chiefs to urge the people to farm rather than flock to urban centres for white collar jobs.

153 American volunteers are in Ghana for two months voluntary service. They are

members of the Operation Crossroads Africa and the Church World Services organisations. They are working on farms and development projects, including schools, social centres and roads.

Uganda and Ghana have signed a technical co-operation agreement under which they will exchange experts, advisers and teachers, according to Ugandan radio. The first group of Ghanaian teachers would be arriving in Uganda "very soon", it said. The agreement was signed by the Commissioner of Education, Lt. Col. Nkeghe, who was visiting Uganda.

Fidesco, an international group got together by Mr. Krobo Edusei, a minister under Dr. Nkrumah, is negotiating with GHIHC for the establishment in Kumasi of a low cost agricultural implements factory.

Managing Director of the Brong Ahafo Regional Development Corporation, Mr. J. M. Ofori, has suggested the setting up of a special fund into which a fixed proportion of revenue accruing from stool and skin royalties should be paid by chiefs to aid rural development.

Frosion, which has already washed away half of the Keta-Denu road, is threatening Vodza, three miles from Keta. The district works superintendent estimated the damage at 6,000 cedis. Keta has experienced constant recorded erosion since 1925.

The Government has confirmed the appointment of Mr. Kow Brown, 44, as Ghana News Agency's General Manager. Mr. Brown has been acting General Manager of the agency since January 1972.

Towns and villages in the Upper Region are to be redesigned and trees planted to provide shade, the Regional Commissioner, Col. Acquaye Nortey, has announced. They are part of precautionary measures against the damage done by heavy rainstorms and the burning heat.

Four people have died of cholera at Winneba.

Nigeria's Federal Commissioner for Information, Chief Anthony Enahoro, has

visited Accra to discuss arrangements for the Second Festival of Black and African Arts scheduled for Lagos in January, 1975.

The Africa regional branch of the International Planned Parenthood Federation will hold a conference on abortion in Africa next December. Dr. Frederic Sai, Assistant Secretary-General of the Federation, announced.

Col. Acheampong has announced that the government is considering the appointment of a committee to review the pay structures of all workers because of the high cost of living brought about by the rise in commodity prices.

The Committee appointed by the NRC to find fitting ways to honour the memory of Dr. Nkrumah has appealed to the public for ideas.

## THE GAMBIA

### Knowing the Dalasi

Almost all people in The Gambia understand the new currency, the Dalasi and the Butal, but there is a tendency "for some people to express values in pounds, shillings and pence", according to an official announcement. The old currency, the announcement warns, is no longer legal. Moreover, after the recent revaluation which makes four Dalasis equal to one pound sterling, "people using the old Gambian pound became confused. Disputes arose when articles priced in old Gambian pounds were paid for at the rate of four Dalasis to one pound". It is time, says the announcement, that "Gambians distinguish their own currency and use Dalasi and Butal". A ten Dalasi note has now been issued.

After the present contract expires a new contract will come into force for supply of imported rice for The Gambia. In the meantime, said the Minister for Local Government, domestic purchase and distribution of rice would be carefully controlled. Every village household will be able to buy six pounds every day, and in each village people should

select one retailer to supply from. The government has nominated suppliers of capital and distinct yard owners and would have to issue vouchers before purchases.

## ZAIRE Mobutu angered by Swiss

President Mobutu said that Switzerland's refusal to extradite the former Foreign Minister, M. Louis Batwanyele, accused of embezzling almost £100 million, showed that Switzerland had become a refuge for the guilty of fraud.

The President said he was not surprised by the Swiss decision. Zaire had been allowed to provide the details of its case and the former minister might have embezzled money destined for a resettlement in Portuguese Africa.

The Swiss decision had not been seen as a political defeat for Zaire, but it now showed that political considerations had weighed more heavily than the view of the international tribunal. The President

Zaire officials had the Egyptian Embassy's explanation of a newspaper report that President Mobutu Swahili had sought an invitation to visit Egypt, says the News Agency. Azap agency said it had categorically deny the report. "General Mobutu had solicited a favour of me about a visit to Egypt by any other Arab State".

President Mobutu's son, President Amin of Uganda have renamed Lake Edward and Edward, lying along a common border, as part of "decolonisation". Lake Edward is now Lake Mobutu-Sudani and Lake Edward is Lake Amin Dada.

Zaire Police arrested Portuguese soldiers who had entered Zaire illegally and believed to be spies, the News Agency Azap says. Both men said they were deserters but Azap says they were part of a

of 150 men trained by the Portuguese to infiltrate Zaire.

The captured soldiers were handed to the Zaire representatives of the National Front for the Liberation of Angola.

• United Nations development aid to Zaire will amount to about 10 million zaires (about £8.4m) for 1972-1976. Mr Alexandre Senou Adande, UN Aid Programme representative has said

The Zaire News Agency, *Azap*, quoted Mr Adande as saying that the figure was decided by experts after a revision of the UN five-year aid programme.

• The Presidents of Zaire, Rwanda and Burundi have met in Goma, Zaire, to discuss tension between Burundi and Tanzania.

Tension has been high between the two countries since Tanzania accused Burundi of invading her territory on June 29th and killing 10 people — a charge denied by Burundi.

#### MAURITANIA

### "Can one believe in the Koran"?

Soviet Ambassador Mirzo Rakhmatov has denied that he was author of an anti-Muslim brochure being distributed in Mauritania, where Islam is the state religion. The booklet, "Can one believe in the Koran?", prints Mr Rakhmatov's name as the author, and the Novosti Press Agency as the editor. The Ambassador denounced the pamphlet as a forgery and deplored "ideological saboteurs who stubbornly try to block friendship between the Soviet Union and the young developing countries". While there has been no official Mauritanian reaction to the publication, the Ambassador's press conference was said to have been organised at the request of the Mauritanian Foreign Ministry.

Ambassador Rakhmatov said that that was not the first time that such counterfeits, imitating the publications of the Novosti Agency, and denigrating the policies of the Soviet Union, had been distributed in countries abroad.

• The Libyan Ambassador has handed over to the Government a gift of six trucks which form part of Libya's contribution to an international operation to help drought victims in Mauritania.

The Libyan diplomat said his country would later be providing food worth about 15 million ougiya (£120,000).

#### CONGO

### New political bureau

The Congolese National Assembly has held its first meeting and elected a five man bureau — a President, two Vice-Presidents and two secretaries. M. Miakassissa Dieudonne, an official of Congo International Labour Bureau and a former trade union leader, was elected President. According to the new constitution he will rank second after the President. First Vice-President is M. Pascal Morlande Ockyemba also a former trade unionist who was Minister of Justice under President Massamba Debat. Second Vice-President is M. Adouki Lambert, a magistrate.

• President Nguoubi has ended an East European tour with the conclusion of an economic co-operation agreement with Bulgaria.

The President had earlier reached similar agreements with Hungary and Rumania.

The Congolese-Bulgarian accord provides for co-operation in agriculture, mining and tourism, and for the delivery of Bulgarian-built factories to the Congo.

• A Congolese Government delegation, headed by Primary and Secondary Education Minister Auguste Balina, has visited North Korea to study the country's education system. Under a cultural agreement signed between the two countries in 1966, North Korea promised assistance in the field of education.

• An agreement permitting the French petroleum company, ELF, to undertake all types of prospecting has been signed by the Congolese Minister for Industry, M. Justin Lekoudzou, and M. Jean Isoard, Director of ELF in the Congo.

The first prospecting will begin around Niari in the south and in the north around the Congo River basin. The Company has already tapped a marine oil-field off the port of Pointe-Noire with an annual production of three and a half million tons.

• Italy's new Ambassador has presented his credentials to President Nguoubi.

Since Italy and the Congo established diplomatic relations in 1971, Italy's investments have included petroleum research, development of the ocean fishing industry and road surfacing.

• Spain's first Ambassador to the Congo has presented his credentials.

#### DAHOMY

### Paoletti accused

Former Minister for Information and Tourism, Theophile Paoletti, has been accused of misappropriating more than 10 million CFA francs (about £20,000) between 1970-72, according to a report by the accounts commission which was heard at the weekly cabinet meeting. Two-thirds of this amount were imputed to M. Paoletti and the rest to his collaborators.

Last month three other former ministers were accused of misappropriating funds.

• African tourism ministers have called on African States to increase co-operation to boost tourism. A special meeting of the Ministerial Committee of the Organisation for the Development of Tourism in Africa in Cotonou also proposed harmonising tourism legislation and giving the organisation facilities to afford member states technical help. A final communique issued at the end of the six-day session called for a common strategy to attract tourists and urged drawing up of new guidelines for the tourism organisation. Ministers also proposed that the organisation adopt austerity measures to improve its financial situation.

• The Government has approved the nomination of Mr M. Shigeru as non-resident Japanese Ambassador. Mr Shigeru will be resident in Abidjan.

#### SENEGAL

### Senhor attacks French

In a report to the National Council of the ruling Union Progressiste Senegalaise, President Senhor has attacked both the French left and the majority of private French investment in Senegal. All private French businesses in Senegal will have to present before the end of the year plans for "Senegalisation", which, when approved by the government, would become law, he said.

Annoyed by critics of his regime in left wing French journals, the President said that their accusations "made the baobabs of Ndiongor and Ndiakhar writhe with laughter".

President Senhor also criticised insufficiency of international aid and rejected allegations that the present West Saharan drought was due to the lack of foresight of African governments. The President said that Mr. Robert MacNamara, President of the World Bank, had told him that the Bank would establish a long-term plan to assist the Sahelian States. President Senhor said that by end of June this year, he had only received 31,000 tons of the 160,000 tons of grain he had requested from developed countries to help cut down Senegal's 350,000 ton grain deficit. He hoped to receive 100,000 tons by the end of October.

• At the end of his next vacation President Senhor is to meet President Pompidou to examine the adaptation of co-operation agreements between France and Senegal, a government spokesman announced.

• A court at Ziguinchor has sentenced an intelligence agent to three years in prison for passing information to Portugal, according to the Senegalese Press Agency. Sambaye Kande of Casamance was said to have admitted informing Portuguese General Spinala's troops of Senegalese problems through his brother who was serving in the Portuguese army.

Senegalese Minister of Economic Affairs, M Babacar Ba, has visited Mauritania to discuss the effect on economic relations of the creation of the new Mauritanian unit of currency, the ouguiya.

A gift of 500 tons of rice from exiled Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia has arrived in Dakar and has been officially given to Senegalese authorities by Chan Yunnan, Ambassador of the Cambodian National Unity Front. During his official visit to Senegal last May, Prince Sihanouk promised to send rice to Senegal as a contribution from his movement to the struggle against drought.

Michel Dou Kingue, Assistant Director of the UNDP, said in Dakar, after talks with Premier Abdou Diouf, that a new plan for developing the resources of the Senegal River is to be drawn up. The plan will be put early next year to the Administrative Council of the UNDP, which has already invested more than \$10m in schemes studying the integrated development of the Senegal River basin.

#### IVORY COAST

### French pacts to be revised

President Houphouët-Boigny announced on his return from a private visit to France and Switzerland that agreements with France were to be revised.

The President will visit Washington on October 9 at President Nixon's invitation. He will visit other US cities, to be named later, after his talks with Mr. Nixon.

The visiting Rumanian Trade Mission had negotiated contracts worth about a million dollars (£400,000) with Ivory Coast.

The Mission had organised a 12-day Trade Exhibition.

An agreement with the UN World Food Programme to sponsor a five-year food improvement plan for Ivory Coast hospitals and other institutions has been signed in Abidjan. The WFP will provide some 420 million francs (CFA £700,000).

At a seminar for 32 leading members of the ruling

Ivory Coast Democratic Party (PDCI) President Houphouët-Boigny urged the need for a profound reform of the education system. Despite the creation of an Educational Reform Committee, the President said he did not feel there had been very much advance. Nor was Ivory Coast any nearer a teaching reform in keeping with development plans.

The meeting held in Yamoussoukro, looked into the organisation of the party which, says *Fraternité Matin*, "in many fields, in its structure and methods, no doubt needs a new, dynamic and life-giving breath of air". The newspaper also quoted the President as saying that the government should take steps to encourage young people to take up scientific and technical careers. It was high time for Africa to become involved in the progress of science and technology "without which she will never be able to overcome her backwardness". The training of Ivory Coast's future leaders, remained the "a priority of priorities".

#### LIBERIA

### More Swedish aid?

Sweden is interested in increasing cooperation with Liberia in every sphere, the newly-accredited Swedish ambassador to Liberia, Mr. Bengt Fridman, told President Tolbert. The President said that among the economic partnerships in which Liberia is involved, "none with Swedish entrepreneurs is of a particular importance and significance". The Swedish-Liberian joint iron ore mining venture, Lanco, was not only the largest single industrial enterprise in Liberia, but also "the largest in this part of Africa".

Plans for the formation of an international consortium to explore and mine iron ore in the Mountains of Grand Cape Mount County, to the West of Monrovia, have been announced. The consortium would be formed by the Liberian Mining Company, the oldest iron ore producer in the country, whose own Bonni Hills reserves are falling heavily, and the National Iron Ore Company, the country's

third largest producer. The deposits lie between the leases of the two companies, Japanese, European and US firms are expected to join the consortium.

#### NIGERIA

### "Slavery" allegations

Recruitment of Nigerian labourers for work in Equatorial Guinea will remain suspended pending investigations into alleged "slavery". Under a work treaty with Equatorial Guinea which expired last February, Nigerian workers have been engaged for work in plantations on Fernando Po Island, off Nigeria's South-Eastern coast. About 30,000 Nigerians are said to be working in Equatorial Guinea. The *Daily Times* has said that the treaty, the latest in a series dating back to Nigeria's pre-independence era, when Equatorial Guinea was administered as an overseas province of Spain, would not be renewed before the outcome of investigation into allegations of "near slavery treatment" of the Nigerian workers. Nigeria's International and Labour Commission, Chief Anthony Enahoro, last May, headed an investigating panel, obtaining depositions from Nigerian labourers in Equatorial Guinea.

Complaints of the suspension of recruitment of Nigerians to work in Equatorial Guinea, the New African says that if the past is any guide, no improvement in the lot of Nigerian workers in Equatorial Guinea can be expected. "The practice of allowing workers to go to Fernando Po should therefore be discontinued. If the Gineans want cheap labour, they are advised to look elsewhere", the newspaper adds.

The Kano State Commissioner for Agriculture and Natural Resources, Alhaji Inuwa Dutse, has said that tanning might hit the state if help was not obtained from outside. It had been difficult for farmers to plant because of drought and limited grain stocked from last year's harvest had been consumed. Alhaji Inuwa noted that farmers still

depended on the technique and methods of farm attendant low productivity. He said that the state faced with a situation where the population is outgrown agricultural

The North Government is to allow 4m naira to food production to effects of drought in state, the Commissioner for Agriculture,

Muhamadu Ali announced. \$500,000 has been set aside for 18,000 tons of grain population in affected areas. \$100,000 had been available to the department to buy feeds. \$200,000 was spent on boreholes and grazing trees. 11,000 tons of subsidised price for and state government given one naira per ministry for salt. The areas badly affected northern Borno, Bauchi and Sardauna provinces.

### Decree on unions

The Federal Government for Information and Chief Arthur Enahoro announced a proposed decree to Federal Government to facilitate labour unions and protect members. He said a conference had also taken of the nation and stability in a decree. Under the law, no less than 50 workers can form a union. Certain people are excluded from membership of the organisations. The members of the police, the Department and the Preventive Service.

General Gowon for 100,000 naira to the Supreme Court for South Africa (SCSA) court of programme this year. President, Mr. Abacha has announced Mr. Oduro that the donation appeal by the SCSA head of state during

second all-African Games in Lagos last January. He said the programme for the year included the forthcoming athletics contest between Africa and the US, and the Mexican Games with Latin America. Mr. Ordia said the SCSA was short of funds to carry out its programme and the "generous donation" from General Gowon was most welcome.

He said that apart from SCSA's training programme for sports administrators, coaches and organisers "we have to pay to bring the US and African teams to Dakar."

## Airlift underway

Massive airlift of food to drought and famine-stricken Niger has begun from Ikeja Airport. The airlift, sponsored by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, began with the airlift of 250 tons of sorghum to Agades in the north of Niger and of Guinea corn to Airlift in the east. It will last about a month at the rate of three flights daily. The chief logistics officer for UN relief operations in the drought Sahelian zone of West Africa, Mr. Trevor Page, told newsmen in Lagos that a large consignment of guinea corn had arrived in Lagos ready for airlift to drought areas. He said that FAO had been delivering food supplies to Mauritania, Senegal, Mali, Chad and Upper Volta in the past three months. Three Canadian airforce transports were expected to join the airlift operation and Canada had contributed generously to relief funds which had reached 7m naira. He noted that "the Federal Government of Nigeria has given the programme the best possible assistance", apparently referring to use of airport facilities.

• Radio-Television Kaduna reports a communique issued by the National Council of Agriculture and Natural Resources, as saying that about 300,000 head of cattle had died of starvation in the drought-affected areas of Nigeria. The Council had recommended that a ban be imposed on the export of livestock feed to save the remaining cattle.

• Gen. Gowon has expressed satisfaction with the way Presidents Nyerere of Tanzania and Micobero of Burundi had resolved their border dispute. He made the remark when the OAU Secretary-General, Mr. Nzo Ekangaki, reported on his mission to the two countries to the head of state in Lagos. Gen. Gowon is current chairman of the OAU. Governor Johnson also reported on a mission to East Africa on the same issue to Gen. Gowon. Brig. Johnson said that settlement of the border dispute was a victory for OAU and a demonstration that Africa was capable of solving its problems.

• Pensioners in Western State are to get a pay rise with effect from September 1971 according to an edict just published. Those whose annual pension does not exceed N400 will get seven naira while those on N1,600 and above per year will get 73 naira.

• Investments in the National Provident Fund (NPF) were N123,440,000 in June, representing an increase of eight per cent over last June of N103,200,000. Participating employers rose from 6,732, last year, to 7,213 in June this year, the permanent secretary in the Federal Ministry of Labour, Mr. S. O. Koku, has said.

## New sugar company

An 80m naira sugar company has been set up by the Federal and North East State governments and the Commonwealth Development Corporation in Numan at the confluence of Rivers Benue and Gongola. The company, the Savannah Sugar Company, will develop a sugar estate along the confluence. It will produce 100,000 tons of refined sugar annually when in full production and will meet half of the country's sugar needs by 1976. The company will employ 5,000 workers.

• An agreement for a loan of 36m naira (about 22.5m sterling) has been signed between the World Bank and the Federal Government. The amount will be used for the development of secondary school education in the six northern states.

• Graduates wishing to do post-graduate courses overseas will have their one-year Youth Corps service deferred on recommendation of their vice-chancellors, the Corps director, Col. Ali, has said. Law graduates attending the Nigerian Law School will be similarly treated. All of them will do their service at the end of their courses. Col. Ali denied that any corps members were posted to their state of origin.

• Two-thirds of National Youth Corps members will be employed in teaching because of acute shortage of teachers, the directorate chairman, Dr. Adedeji, has said. The balance would be assigned to their fields of specialisation.

• Twenty-six labour exchange centres have been set up throughout the country to check drift of job seekers to urban centres. The centres will match qualified applicants with available vacancies throughout the country.

## Balewa heads Niger commission

Nigerian diplomat Alhaji Balarabe Tafawa Balewa, has been appointed secretary to the Niger-Nigerian joint commission, while Mr. Ousmarou Youssouf of Niger was named assistant secretary. The convention creating the joint commission for co-operation between the two countries was signed in 1971.

• The new Nigerian High Commissioner to Botswana, Mr. Alfred Babalola Ayodele, has presented his credentials to President Seretse Khama. Like his predecessor, Mr. O. I. Oshemaka, Mr. Ayodele will also be accredited to Lesotho and Swaziland. He will be resident in Botswana.

• The Military School, Zana, is to be expanded and equipped to raise its admissions, Governor Abba Kyari has announced at its 16th passing parade.

• Tax raids will be suspended in the Western State during the census to show that it has nothing to do with tax collection, the state's census officer, Mr. Olufemi Ojo, has said.

• At least 15 people have died in a cholera outbreak in the Mbarice division of East Central State. Health officials have begun a mass vaccination programme.

• A former assistant registrar in the University of Lagos, Mr. F. O. Kabayawa, has been made chief administrative officer of Lagos State Development and Property Corporation.

• The Italian Ambassador in Nigeria, Mr. Jamshid Meltali, has presented his credentials to Gen. Gowon.

## SIERRA LEONE

### All detainees freed

On the eve of his departure for a prolonged stay abroad President Siaka Stevens released all Sierra Leone's remaining political detainees and extended a Presidential Pardon to Mrs. Jamillah Bangura, widow of the executed Force Commander, Brigadier John Bangura, who had been convicted of incitements to mutiny in 1971 and sentenced to seven years imprisonment. Those released include Dr. Mohammed Forna and Mr. Ibrahim Bash Taqi, former members of Mr. Steven's government and party, who broke away in 1970 to form the now banned United Democratic Party and who were thought to be resolutely opposed to any settlement with their former leader. The released detainees also include former Brigadier Juxon-Smith, who although he played no part in the coup establishing it, was recalled to Sierra Leone to lead the military regime which had ousted Dr. Stevens and his party from power immediately after they had been elected to replace the government of Sir Albert Margai in 1967.

### A correspondent writes:

These releases show a high degree of self confidence in the government, which, after the May general election, is now supported by a Parliament drawn exclusively from government party supporters, one party *de facto*, if not *de jure*. And in the meantime the last of the Guinea troops who were

acting as a bodyguard for the President have quietly gone home. And when, in addition, the releases of the detainees have taken place just before the President's prolonged absence abroad, which takes him to London, Switzerland, Ottawa, probably Europe again, and then to Ethiopia for a state visit, they are truly remarkable. Is Sierra Leone at last to see, after all these years of division and disorder, that national reconciliation and lessening of political bitterness which the country has for so long needed?

It is too soon to answer the question. But Mr. Stevens and his lieutenants, perhaps forgetting more easily than their opponents can, the circumstances of their election victory, appear genuinely to feel that the time has come for everybody — supporters and opponents — to join in pursuing the country's economic interests, leaving politics aside. And nobody can deny that the economic situation gives ground for concern.

● Establishment of the proposed United Nations University is now the subject of a draft charter drawn up by a committee at the Paris

headquarters of UNESCO. The charter will be submitted to other UN bodies later this year. It is not intended that the university should have a single headquarters but it will consist of a network of research and training centres throughout the world. According to a UNESCO spokesman research will be concerned with "the major problems of human survival and progress." The UN body specifically concerned with establishing the university is the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), of which the present head is Dr. Davidson Nicol, former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sierra Leone.

● President Stevens and his wife will be arriving in Addis Ababa on August 26 for a state visit, according to Addis Ababa Radio. He has recently visited London, Geneva and Rome, and is expected in Ottawa this week.

● The President of the Presidential Council of the Hungarian Peoples' Republic, Mr. Pal Losonczi, is expected to visit Sierra Leone at the end of this year. A trade and economic co-operation agreement between Sierra Leone

and the Hungarian Peoples' Republic has been signed in Freetown. Sierra Leone will export agricultural produce and minerals to Hungary. Hungary will export machinery, textiles and miscellaneous goods to Sierra Leone.

● In the final examinations of the University of Sierra Leone, Mrs. M. Tuboku-Mezger was the only student to obtain a Diploma in Education in Division I. Women also won top places for the English 'BA, the French BA, Honours BSc in Mathematics, and the BSc General degrees.

● Miss Mai Abigail Clarissa Jones of Freetown was among those called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn. Miss Jones is only daughter of a retired assistant Bishop, The Rt. Revd P.J. Jones. She studied Law at Nottingham.

● Sierra Leone's Ambassador to the US, Mr. Philip Primer, has been appointed High Commissioner to Jamaica, with his residence in Washington. A former Ambassador to Guinea, Mr. Sorsoh Ibrahim Conteh, has been appointed Ambassador to Cuba.

● Another agreement with new Sierra Leone road with Liberia has been signed in Freetown. The road, some seven miles from Sierra Leone side and 100 miles from the Liberian side with a major bridge, will be financed by the US through the African Development Bank.

● Negotiations to open bauxite mining in the Loko District are expected to be completed shortly. The President said when visiting the area. Negotiations, he said, had already reached a "fruitful stage" and the operation would start as soon as provided an atmosphere of peace and stability was maintained.

● Thirty-seven year old Madam Sally Satta Kromah — Gemeh has been elected Paramount Chief of the Maleghon (Caledon) Kenema.

● Sierra Leone has given Le7,000 to Mauritania to help in the acute food shortage arising from the consecutive year of drought.

● Forty-five and six per cent in schools are to have their training from the start of the new school year.

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